

The Peak

Publishing Our Politics

GUELPH: A History of Resistance

VOLUME 51 | ISSUE 1 | SEPTEMBER 2011

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Together We Eat & Grow: Interview with Two Rivers Community Garden

History of Anti-Development Resistance **Where to Grow From Here?**

Readin', Writin', & Rebellion Guelph Prison Riot – Tongue for Dinner?

History, analysis & Proposals for Insurgency **That's Guelph for 'Ya!**

Contributors

www.GUELPHPEAK.org

ANON

ANONYMOUS

ARROW ARCHIVE

APPLETUBBS

DANIELLE GEHL

E.WAR

FTP

PJ LILLEY

REBEKAH NICOLE

SCREECHING BANSHEE

TOM KEEFER

GET IN TOUCH:
PEAK@UOGUELPH.CA

OFFICE:
UNIVERSITY CENTRE
ROOM 258
UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
GUELPH, ON
N1G 2W1

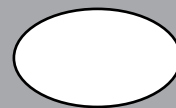


TABLE OF CONTENTS

GUELPH:

A History of Resistance

VOLUME 51 | ISSUE 1 | SEPTEMBER 2011

PHOTO: FTP

54



PHOTO: TONY SAXON GUELPH MERCURY

10

PHOTO: FTP

23



3

Welcome.....	2
Readin', Writin', & Rebellion <i>an Uncontrollable</i>	3
Anarchists Paint Bomb Statue of John Galt <i>Anarchist Settlers</i>	8
Where to Grow from Here? <i>Anonymous</i>	10
Together We Eat & Grow <i>Anonymous</i>	23
A Spark in the Dark <i>Anonymous</i>	29
The Occupation Movement <i>PJ Lilley</i>	36
The Beginning of the Occupation <i>Tom Keefer</i>	38
Pull-Out Centrefold Map of Guelph.....	40
Bricks & Slingshots <i>Danielle Gehl</i>	44
The Guelph 1974 Strikes at ITT and Union Gas <i>Alive Collective</i>	46
Burn Pile <i>Arrow Archive</i>	53
That's Guelph for Ya! <i>Moderately Wild Carrots</i>	54
Brief Chronology of Militant Resistance <i>Stryke A. Match</i>	68
Rise Above the Influence <i>Poetry by Rebekah Nicole</i>	76
So Happy I Could Kill Myself <i>Rebekah Nicole</i>	77
Some Shade of Grey <i>Poetry by Rebekah Nicole</i>	80
Dis-Orientation Week Schedule.....	82

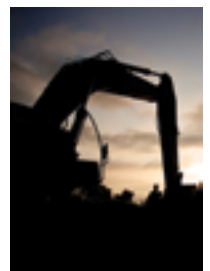


Cover: Where the Eramosa river meets the Speed river has been a gathering place for centuries. Located downtown.

PHOTO: FTP

Back: Sun rises over land defenders at the Hanlon Creek in the South end of Guelph.

PHOTO: FTP



We love you

Hey readers,

Here at *the Peak*, we wanted to make something that would engage not only ourselves and our dedicated readership, but also those of you that may be new to Guelph. What better way to do so than to make a whole issue dedicated to the history of resistance in Guelph, something we feel very close to here at *the Peak*.

Inside these unbleached pages you'll find many articles about the near and distant, often invisible, past of resistance in Guelph. You may find strange and alienating and maybe even unbelievable things in this issue, but give it a chance. We are trying to open the door on the history that exists here in the 519. Together, we can create a viable future.

You may notice a few changes in the way *the Peak* looks. Well, we have harnessed our collective powers and built a whole new style for the magazine. A new collective brings on a new look, a look that we hope you'll love. I won't bore you with the details, but we plan on making *the Peak* better than it has ever been. And for that we look to you, because you're the most important part. We need illustration, photography, articles, and more. Stay tuned for our upcoming themes and submission deadlines.

the Peak

Readin', Writin', and Rebellion

by an Uncontrollable

ILLUSTRATION: APPLETTUBBS

See pages
40 and 41
for locations
mentioned
in this article
on a sweet
pull-out map
of Guelph.

“Voodoo cults sacrificing unholy women in Detroit”, “murdered State Troopers”, “a ten-year-old kidnapped and murdered in Tacoma”, Washington..... Seventy-five years ago the Merc seems to have had an editorial policy that called for one sensational, weird and titillating story on the front page every day, whenever possible.

When a sensational, unexpected and titillating story happened in Guelph, the Merc had a banner headline day. Four full lines of headlines stretched across the top of the early edition of the Merc on Monday, January 18th, 1937. “Rioters Wreck Reformatory”, “Enraged Prisoners Fire Buildings”, “Kitchen is Torn Apart”, “Over 40 Escape”. The headlines were no different from the hysterical rants of Fox News or the late, unlamented News of the World.

In bold faced type, the intro to the lead article could have come out of Glenn Beck’s mouth:

“Stripped and burned by the plundering fingers of rioting inmates, Ontario’s finest reformatory stands today eviscerated of more than 100 000 dollars in equipment – literally a shell torn apart within by savage hands. Only the administration offices escaped the furious wrecking, the wild incendiarism, and the general smash-up....”

The prisoners’ actions are well detailed. Many testified before a quickly convened investigation. Additionally, guards testified at that investigation and both prisoners and guards were interviewed by the media.

Media, police and prison staff all referred to the uprising as a riot. The term is inaccurate. The roots of the word riot are linked to wanton and gluttonous dissipation. The Latin word *bellum*, meaning war, is the root of the word rebellion and the Oxford English Dictionary definition of a rebel - “One who resists, or rises in arms against, the established governing party” – accurately describes the prisoners’ actions.

The prisoners were not rioters, they were rebels. They were rebelling against a heinous, impersonal machine of punishment and discipline fuelled by small, endless indignities coupled with an absolute loss of control over one’s very being. Some fled, some smashed, all rebelled. Some rebels cooked, while the media reported fires in the kitchen the subsequent investigation revealed

that prisoners cooked, apparently with a preference for bacon, and fed fellow inmates throughout the action. As rebels they were ruthlessly repressed by the state, aided and abetted by the affluent, automobile owning yeomanry, apparently, implicitly deputized, as armed they freely roamed the land hunting ‘rioters’ and ‘enraged prisoners’.

The action began at approximately two in the afternoon on Sunday, January 17th. The Globe and Mail interviewed a prisoner from B-block where the rebellion began: “It started at dinnertime I guess about fifteen of the fellows put down their empty trays and wouldn’t eat. They went out of the dining room and up to the dormitories. The guards came up after them and took four of them away. They thought they were the four ringleaders. As soon as they took the four away the trouble started. The fellows wanted the four back. They started breaking windows and setting fire to the mattresses.”

The residents of B-block were beginning to destroy the institution. C-block also rebelled. The rebels there started fires in the library and assaulted the tower.

At this point it seems, although the evidence, without having consulted architectural drawings, is unclear, inmates in the dormitories in B-block were able to break through onto the roof of the block. From there they dropped down onto the adjacent kitchen roof and faced two alternatives. Many went through the roof of the kitchen, presumably through ventilation fans, and skylights, and quickly ignited the kitchen before breaking back into the dining hall. Other rebels dropped from the roof of the kitchen onto the reformatory grounds and fled.

The escapees were quickly recaptured and ten appeared in Guelph court the next morning. Charged with “breaking prison,” two of the escapees insisted that they had not broken or broken out of anything, arguing that they had merely walked away when the opportunity presented itself.

The state seemed to lack an equivalent sense of humour.

The state's response, even before the investigation began, was to escalate. The next day reformatory administrators were demanding a large stockpile of tear gas and smoke bombs to be kept at the institution for immediate use, and had armed the guards. Guards carried weapons for two days before the provincial government ordered them to disarm. Later, during the investigation the Superintendent and guards stated repeatedly that 'in-house' smoke, tear gas bombs, and weapons for reformatory staff were essential. "If a man had been armed it would have helped a lot. I think a smoke bomb would have been more effective than arms..." guard Rhodes Fawcett told the investigation. Prison authorities also demanded more efficient means of controlling prisoner movement.

Reflexively, the administration assumed that if prisoners were able to rebel they must be more effectively repressed. That they had grievances, and that these grievances were justified was not a part of the debate. Disobedient prisoners required the short, sharp stroke of the lash plain and simple.

Surprisingly, and disappointingly, the population of Guelph took to the rebellion like hounds to a fox. They volunteered their cars to the local police for a 'mobile' force and accompanied police officers on patrol. The *Merc* proudly reported, "Posses were formed. One or two men brought shot guns and other weapons and the men set out in automobiles to scour the territory for the familiar blue prison overalls."

In the wake of the rebellion the authorities had a host of explanations and excuses all of which, with remarkable slight of hand, diminished both their responsibility and the rebels' own agency. According to Deputy Provincial Secretary C. F. Neelands, the rebellion was the inevitable result of "undisciplined young fellows together". Perhaps; after all, more



Guelph Correctional Centre

PHOTO: E.WAR

than fifty percent of the inmates at the Ontario Reformatory were under the age of twenty.

Guard Fawcett offered his own explanation, diametrically opposed to Neeland's excuse, "A few hardened inmates encouraged a lot of the boys, [and] started it, in my opinion." Superintendent Heaslip agreed blaming the riot on "a nest of ten or twelve agitators." Sergeant Maguire offered another non-explanation, "It would be pretty hard to figure out the cause of the trouble." Guard John Alexander Ferris had another explanation, "The way it blew off. I think it was organized." There we have it, the state had the answer, it was old inmates, it was young inmates, it was a conspiracy and it was inexplicable.

Judge Madden, presiding over the inquiry, accepted none of these

explanations. He concluded, honest, that the attractiveness of the Reformatory was the root of the problem:

“The reformatory grounds look too pretty, almost a ‘show place. No institution for detention for crime should be attractive, neither to the public nor to the inmates. The effect is bad. Material beauty of grounds is not reformatory, and certainly tends to make the place look inviting. It should be the reverse, rigidly plain, to inculcate a wholesome fear on the part of both the public and the inmates.”

The rebels told the investigation and the Merc a much different, more basic and much more believable story, one that never appeared in the headlines. Simply put, the entire population thought the food sucked. Tongue was the dinnertime meal refused on Sunday the 17th. Inmates claimed it was rotten, canned tongue not the meat from the abattoir on-site. They argued that the meat from the abattoir was being sold by guards on the black market while they were served rotten, tinned rations. Another prisoner insisted that the rebellion began over butter. Interestingly, Dr. Heaslip, the Reformatory Superintendent diagnosed one of the alleged ringleaders as having “paranoid tendencies” who truly, but falsely, believed the food was poisoned. The diagnosis as a paranoiac justified his removal from the institution and the dismissal of his complaints. Hello, Catch-22.

The rebels also resented that, for the first time in the history of the reformatory, three weeks earlier, they had been denied Christmas parcels from their families. Historically, prisoners in Ontario institutions were permitted to receive socks, clothes, underclothes, toiletries and food in parcels from family. Institution by institution this practice was curtailed in the 1930s. At the Ontario Reformatory the only exception to this rule was a Christmas parcel, until even they were banned in 1936.

No conspiracy, no evil geniuses, just men rebelling against intolerable conditions. How simple is that. They wanted Christmas parcels and they wanted edible food. As a former inmate I can testify that incarceration is heinous and that any opportunity to strike back is regarded as payback, justified, pleasurable and a bitch.

The authorities had a host of marvellous responses. Denying Christmas parcels reduced gambling; moreover, the prisoners’ food looked and even tasted wonderful. Guard Fawcett testified that if the menu in the staff dining hall was not to his liking he would eat the men’s food, and enjoyed it. Guard Elmer Galloway testified that at dinner on the 17th dessert was raisin pie, “and it looked very good.” Reformatory Superintendent Dr JD Heaslip testified, that he inspected the food regularly and it was “always in good shape.” Specifically, he added, he ate the tongue at dinnertime on the 17th, “I ate two slices of it myself. I couldn’t find anything wrong with it.”

Guard Fawcett also stated that Christmas parcels containing personal toiletries provided stakes for gambling. He asserted that parcels “caused discontent and gambling in the corridor.” Guard Ferris also testified that the contents of parcels provided stakes for gambling. Summarizing the testimony of Reformatory staff the Merc extrapolated, concluding “it was a good thing to cut off parcels.”

Having done time on three occasions in three different Ontario institutions I can state with absolute certainty that no measures reduce gambling, the food sucks, and arbitrary measures, whether it is the denial of Christmas parcels or yard, inspire frustration and fury in individuals already subject to the most blatant face of power.

When you are inside you call your bookie on the outside, nothing changes. When you are inside, at the right time of the year, you participate in the football pool and take pride in running it. If you

are so inclined you can bet on poker, dice and any other games running on the range. If you can't play for high stakes like dope you play for peanut butter or canteen. Gambling is as much a part of doing time as screws.

Denying Christmas parcels had nothing to do with reducing gambling. Sergeant McGuire testified that Dr. Heaslip was intent on being perceived as 'stricter' and inmates, indeed, perceived him as being "very strict." At the investigation many of the inmates testified that the Superintendent happily played Scrooge in denying Christmas parcels. According to the administration the prisoners' actions were a function of opportunity – 'laxity' as guards described it. Bullshit. The prisoners' actions were a response to demeaning and dehumanizing conditions. They did not rebel because they were coddled; they rebelled because they were abused and demeaned.

And the food – think of hospital food, only exponentially and unimaginably worse. Think of the taste of McDonald's and the look of pavement. Everything that can be is *ersatz*¹, from coffee to entrées. The most fantastic are the 'ribs', crenelated meat patties that vaguely allude to the shape of ribs and 'pizza' that is comprised of pieces of boiled potato in a watery tomato sauce. Unforgettable, the vegetables, imagine frozen broccoli, thawed, steamed, and then kept heated for hours, delivered grey with the consistency of porridge.

Do the screws eat the institution food? That depends. In the Hurst, no way. ... McDonald's a la pavement. The Hurst produces thousands of meals for multiple institutions every day and it is impossible to describe how truly horrible that food is. At smaller institutions like Stratford and the Brantford County bucket that only cook for one hundred or so inmates, it's institutional jug with a personal touch, and guards eat it. Not because its good, because its free they eat it. So, I'm sure the guard testified

honestly that he ate it. I'm also sure it sucked.

In analyzing the prisoners actions and the inadequate explanations offered by the administration, certain questions remain. Was the rebellion a cover, a manufactured incident, to distract from a prison break? Not likely. To escape from an institution requires outside help and pre-planning. If this was a cover for an escape, the inmates would have made contact with connections on the outside and had vehicles available to flee the area. In fact, only two of the escapees obtained stolen vehicles and they were apprehended in Fergus and Elora, respectively. This action was not a prison break, the inmates who walked away simply walked away. The rebellion was neither more nor less than men debased and dehumanized who responded with fury to their treatment.

The essentials of doing time in a provincial institution remain the same today as they were seventy-five years ago. Interminable boredom, an ever present threat of violence from fellow cons and more frequently prison staff, and domination of every element of an individuals' space and time. The very obscenity of the state's power within penal institutions also marks them as fields of opportunity and literature can play a key role. Inmates are bored, almost everyone reads if only to pass time, and books and reading material are hard to obtain. When I received a parcel of literature while in the Hurst that included titles like *Prison is for the Poor* and *Policing in a Global Context*, everybody on the range was impressed and many wanted to read them. Some of the literature was then forwarded to other institutions and other pamphlets remained on my range when I was released. In prison, literature has legs and a receptive audience.

So, today, write a prisoner, or send in a package of literature. It will be appreciated and possibly plant a spark of rebellion.

¹ *Ersatz* is an artificial substitute differing in kind from and inferior in quality to what it replaces.

Guelph, Ontario: **Anarchists paint bomb statue of John Galt**

ANARCHIST SETTLERS



See pages
40 and 41
for locations
mentioned
in this article
on a sweet
pull-out map
of Guelph.

In the wee hours of the morning of August 4th, 2008, anarchist settlers used a ketchup bottle to apply red metal paint to a statue of John Galt in front of City Hall. August 4th was Guelph's first ever John Galt Day. The town was awash in festivities and celebrations honouring John Galt, and the plan he developed for the founding of the city of Guelph back in 1827. But who is this John Galt character?

John Galt was a Scotsman who worked for the Canada Company. The Canada Company was based in England and was the largest single commercial force active in the colonization of Upper Canada (more or less present day Ontario). The company purchased two and a half million acres of land from the illegitimate government of Upper Canada. They worked to settle and develop it by providing ships to transport new immigrants, by advertising land for sale in the "new world" to Europeans, and by selling land at an affordable price to those looking to escape the horrors of industrial Europe. Despite its arrangement with the government of Upper Canada the Canada Company did not have a legitimate claim to the land as it was already owned and used by a number of Indigenous Nations. This fact is often conveniently overlooked. John Galt's job with the Canada Company was to explore the area and assess the possibilities for development. However, in 1827 he devised a plan for an ideal city and on April 23rd walked many hours into the undeveloped bush in order to found the city of Guelph by falling a tree at what is now the intersection of Wellington and MacDonnell streets.

In many ways Galt's plan for the city of Guelph was remarkable for its

time, but how did his plan include the indigenous people of this area. The fact remains that it didn't. In fact, although not a particularly pious man himself, Galt made sure that the Catholic Church, an organization infamous for its attempts to destroy indigenous nations through the use of missionaries and residential schools, received a prominent place in the town. From just about anywhere downtown you can see the spires of the Church of Our Lady towering above you. Some suggest that the special favour shown towards the Catholic Church had much to do with Bishop MacDonnell, who provided a substantial portion of the funding necessary for the formation of the Canada Company and the purchase of the land in Upper Canada.

The Catholic Church and the Canada Company worked to settle and colonize the "new world," Upper Canada, and Guelph at the expense of indigenous populations. John Galt was actively engaged in that process and helped lay the foundation for genocide of unimaginable proportions.

John Galt's own words foretold the horrific consequences of the Canada Companies agenda of genocide on the day he ceremonially felled the first tree in the founding of the city of Guelph. He wrote that "the tree fell with a crash of accumulating thunder, as if ancient nature were alarmed at the entrance of social man into her innocent solitudes with his sorrows, his follies and his crimes" (*the Autobiography John Galt*, p. 58-59). To celebrate John Galt is to celebrate the foundation of colonization and genocide among other follies and crimes of European men.



ILLUSTRATION: APPLETUBBS

*Originally posted by pokpkobjf
on August 5, 2008, to
friendsofgrassynarrows.com*

WHERE TO GROW FROM HERE?

*An Incomplete History of
Anti-Development Resistance in
Guelph, Ontario*



PHOTO: TONY SAXON, GUELPH MERCURY

Grimreaper reaches out for Peter cartwright with sythe in hand at sod turning ceremony for Hanlon Creek Business Park.

INTRODUCTION

Before this place was called Guelph, this was the home of the Huron and Neutral Nations. Dozens of villages were home to tens of thousands of people, with the Hurons to the north and the Neutrals around the Grand River, Hamilton, and Niagara areas.

The invasion of European society into what's known as Southwestern Ontario began with French fur traders and Jesuit missionaries. The ultimate goal of these groups was to enrich the French, and later British empires by exploiting the land and killing and assimilating Indigenous people.

The first extractive industries here were the fur trade, fishing, and logging, which was followed in the 1800s by agriculture and mining. Since then ninety-nine percent of original forests have been destroyed. Seventy percent, and in some locations ninety percent, of wetlands have been destroyed – the largest amount of recorded wetland destruction on Earth. Elk, moose, black bears, wolves, eagles, salmon, fisher, marten, and many more species who once lived here have been extirpated (locally extinct).

The Grand River Watershed, which Guelph is a part of, has more than 130 dams and twenty-nine sewage treatment plants. These are primarily responsible for the sharp decline of most turtles, fish, and amphibian species.

Most recorded history about the Huron and Neutral people comes from the exploits of the French Jesuits. The Hurons and Neutral mostly regarded them as terrible people, as “sorcerors who carried death and misfortune everywhere.” The Jesuits introduced smallpox to the area, and while French-written history books do not tell of it, likely also knowingly spread smallpox blankets as a means of weakening the Indigenous Nations. To that end they also stoked conflicts between both the Huron and Neutrals and the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations), who were amid a longstanding conflict.

These chickens eventually came home to roost, as at least eight Jesuits were killed by the Haudenosaunee between 1642 – 1649, and attempts at rebuilding missions were stopped. The most well-known to be murdered was Jean de Brebeuf, who has a children's camp named after him fifteen kilometers north of Guelph. These attacks on French incursions are the first recorded acts against capitalism and empire on this land, although there have been many, many more acts by Indigenous people unrecorded in history books.

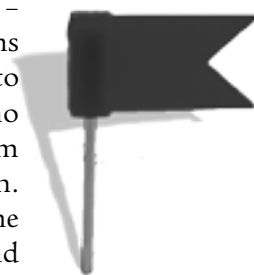
CAPITAL IS LIKE A CLOGGED ARTERY

The first struggle of recent history that has inspired and moved anti-development struggle was against Guelph Lake Dam located on the Grand River watershed.¹

The Guelph Lake Dam and its associated reservoir are located north of Guelph, with its main focus being water management. The dam collects run-off to prevent spring flooding and releases it all summer to maintain the constant flow of the river, when it would naturally decline. Previously wetlands, floodplains and forests, along with tree cover, helped maintain river levels and lessened flooding. If Guelph Lake Dam didn't exist today, most of Guelph would flood every few years, as the city was built on floodplains and wetlands.

The river also now serves a purpose for waste management, with a number of businesses and municipalities dumping waste into the river to be taken down stream to Branford, Six Nations and beyond. The Grand Conservation Authority elaborates:

“It's closely connected to Guelph's growth, too. Because Guelph Lake has kept the Speed from drying up in the hot summer months, it provides a steady supply of water so waste effluent dumped in the river can be flushed away. Without that, it's unlikely the Speed could have sustained a city that has grown to this current size.”



See pages 40 and 41 for locations mentioned in this article on a sweet pull-out map of Guelph.

1 The Grand River watershed represents the 6,800 kilometers of land drained by the Grand River. There are four major rivers which feed into it: The Conestogo, Nith, Eramosa and Speed. Both the Eramosa and the Speed flow through Guelph. By the time the Grand River meets Lake Erie, it is the third foulest river in Ontario.

To build Guelph Dam, the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) expropriated 3,971 acres of land from farmers and the land-owners north of the city for reservoir development. Land-owners resisted the theft of their land by these government agents, claiming the GRCA was taking too much land. Fourty-seven landowners refused offers, leading to expropriations orders launched against them. Six properties fought tooth and nail, forcing arbitration and delays to the construction of the dam, but were eventually evicted from their land.

As tensions rose, workers came to clear trees from the land to make it ready for the reservoir, but were confronted by thirty angry neighbours who stopped them. Tensions continued to rise, until one day in 1973, Mac Coutts, General Manager of the GRCA, received a knock on his door. It was a policeman telling him that they had received death threats against him. A youth at one of the farms let it be known that "...if the GRCA expropriated his land, he intended to start killing those behind the project, including Coutts."

Once the Dam was completed, the excess land was turn into a tourist attraction. Cedar trees taken from the site were used to make picnic tables by the captive labour of prisoners from Guelph Corrections.

GUELPH VERSES GOLIATH (WALMART)

The fight that really set the stage for a modern day anti-development struggle in Guelph was the six year-long battle to stop Walmart from being built in the north end of town. At the time of Walmart's current sales estimates, this resulted in a loss of 300 Millions in revenue from the store.

The struggle revolved around constant legal fights, as well as political & media ones, stalling the project through lawsuits, arbitration, Ontario Munical Board challenges, and petitions and the like. It was a rallying call in the city against new sprawl and received a wealth of support.

People the world over, trying to prevent Walmart from building in their city, have looked to the example set by people in Guelph in resisting this project. Although Walmart was eventually able to build here, manipulating jurisdictional loopholes, a precedent was set on how people can start to stand up and resist development in this city.

But this struggle left many people burnt out and uninspired by the loss, pushing many back into passivity. Others, more confident in the complete failure of resistance within the system, moved towards a form of action more direct.

"IF YOU BUILD IT, WE WILL BURN IT" -ELF COMMUNIQUE

Guelph's trouble with the mischievous elves began in June 2005 when in one night the Zellers under construction on Stone road had a garbage can lit on fire in it's foyer and a molotov cocktail was thrown at the front doors of the Church of Our Lady, the epicentre of Guelph's downtown. The words, *No More Development* and *ELF*, acronym for the Earth Liberation Front were spray-painted at the Zellers. This set off a wave of arsons and sabotage of construction sites that rocked the city and sent a clear message to developers that a new form of resistance to their projects was in the works.

Sabotage of construction sites followed, and on October 30th, 2005 several fires were set at the Cutten Club, partially burning down the pro shop, and causing close to \$500,000 in damage. The act was claimed with a spray-painted message, *ELF in support of Special Diet*, a campaign being run by the Ontario Common Front to get more money in the hands of people on welfare and disability.

The elves campaign continued. One arson of a new house in a subdivision was claimed in memory of William C. Rodgers also known as 'Avalon', who died from an apparent suicide after being arrested for a string of arsons in the Western United

States, in a crackdown known as the Green Scare.

On June 25th, three pieces of machinery were sabotaged by anarchists & two days later the ELF torched a new home being built on Summit ridge. The house was reduced to ruins by the time the fire department arrived.

Three weeks later, Southern Ontario really started to heat up. On July 14th, two Million was caused to a condo development in Toronto when the ELF put dirt in the gas tanks and air filters of over a dozen excavators. On July 17th, two construction sites were sabotaged in Brantford. On July 18th, a fire was set at a new home in the south end of Guelph. On July 19th, three more constructions sites in Brantford were sabotaged. And on the weekend of July 21-24th, six construction sites in London were sabotaged.

The final act of the ELF was a fire set at a Reid's Heritage Home construction site, causing eight to ten thousand dollars to a new house. With that the elves became silent once more, but throughout their existence, they were able to further discussions about urban sprawl in this city and changed the political terrain that developers work in. The ELF left a lasting precedent that reminds all the developers in Guelph the extent their projects may be resisted.

RESISTANCE SPREADS LIKE A WILD FIRE

The Earth Liberation Front's tactics of arson and sabotage were not alone, and soon anarchist inspired actions were taken against developers, banks and city officials in Guelph.

Anarchists and vandals have been responsible for anti-development graffiti littering this city for years, defacing billboards and expressing resentment towards these projects across their facades.

Anarchists have also claimed arsons, sabotage, vandalisms & window smashings in the past seven years, furthering militant

tactics against development in Guelph. Constant themes in all these actions are against development and land theft from indigenous peoples, and solidarity with people facing repression for their land defence struggles.

Anarchists have taken an active role against corporations who are implicated in the destruction of forest and mountains in B.C., both around the 2010 Olympic Games and the Sun Peaks Ski Resort, targeting Re/Max, Delta Hotel, Bank of Montreal, McDonalds and Bell Canada. Another target was The Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) and its local gang members Linamar & Bell Canada, for trying to spread capital and profit, and encourage development across borders. Politicians, CN Rail, local developers Reid Heritage Homes and Priori & Sons, and a wealth of banks were also targets of anarchists.

Such a wide array of targets may seem hard to link one struggle to another, but the bond that glues them all together is market forces and a societal quest for capital and profit. These goals drive all these financial bodies to link up or compete in a quest for more profit. In short, these forces are capitalism.

Therefore, when an act of solidarity is expressed with native communities resisting development in BC or Tyendinaga, when rioters take over the streets of Toronto during the G20 and when anarchists resist development in Guelph, we enter these conflicts with a common enemy-capital and the destruction it wrecks on our lives. Oftentimes, the messages left to communicate these acts seem more cryptic and scattered than any unified force, it is the signature of anarchist which ties it all together. **Anarchist = 'Against the State, Capital and the destruction it brings.'**

One inspiring unified act of resistance was during an armed siege by police of a quarry reclaimed by Mohawk warriors near Deseronto in Eastern Ontario on April 25th, 2008. Some anarchists

responded to calls for solidarity by sending folks to the siege, to try to help prevent a state massacre. That same night in Guelph, three Bell vans had all their tires slashed, and anarchists destroyed three dump trucks by fire and damaged another in solidarity. graffiti was left at the site of the arson saying [OPP] *Get The Hell Out Of Tyendinaga*.

The Next day, a roaming blockade disrupted freight traffic for hours in Vancouver, and barricades were set up on Highway 6 in Six Nations. That night, flaming barricades were set up on Highway 6 through Guelph that shut down traffic for an hour. Close to a dozen solidarity actions happened coast to coast in response to this situation.

women (many Clan Mothers), halting any intrusion. Tensions continued to rise as the government and developers repeatedly threatened action.

At 5 AM on April 20th 2006: over 150 armed OPP officers raided the site and attacked the occupants, using a variety of weapons, and tasing an elder in the chest. They arrested sixteen people, but within an hour hundreds of people from the reserve swarmed the site, beating the police with bats and sticks, and attacking their cars, until they retreated to the nearby suburbs. In response to the raid, people blocked Hwy 6, the CN rail line and a number of overpasses entering onto the reserve with burning tires, downed hydro towers and transport trucks.

Tensions remained high all summer, later to be called the 'Caledonia Crisis' by the media. But far from a crisis, it was truly an inspiring turning point in Southern Ontario for a resurgence in defence of traditional lands of the Six Nations against the government and developers.

In Guelph, the reclamation played a key role in developing relationships between anarchists and activists, and inspiring new forms of resistance at home. A steady flow of people from Guelph visited Kanehstaton during the time leading up to the raid, with many present the day of the raid to witness the violence by the police, but more importantly, participate in the retaking of Kanehstaton and the strength everyone felt that day.

A group in Guelph was set up to start getting resources and supporters down to the site. Demonstrations and information pickets were held in Guelph to get Six Nations side of the story out into the public. On the site, Guelphites pulled many all-nighters keeping watch, and hours in the kitchen keeping the site a flowing, social site of resistance.

After the climate calmed down, anarchists from Guelph were present at court hearings for land defenders who were charged from the struggle for Kanehstaton. A small information



April 4th 2006
Kanehstaton in
the early morning
two weeks
before the raid.

PHOTO: FTP

KANEHSTATON, "THE PROTECTED PLACE"

The Haudenosaunee (Six Nations) people never gave up the Haldimand Tract², yet today the canadian state only recognizes five percent of the original title. With urban sprawl and a ballooning population on the reserve, tensions have been raising for years to reclaim Six Nations land that is rightfully theirs.

The Reclamation of Kanehstaton (*"the protected place"*), better known as the Douglas Creeks Estates, began by a group of women from the adjacent Six Nations reserve on February 28th, 2006. These Six Nations land defenders vowed to stay on their land until it was returned to them.

On March 22nd 2006, after an injunction and a judge ordering the use of force in the taking of Kanehstaton by the police, 200 people held the site, led by fifty

²In 1784, the british crown gave the (Six Nations) the 'Haldimand Tract', a title to 6 miles on either side of the Grand River and it's tributaries, in exchange for allying themselves with the crown and losing their traditional territory south of the Great Lakes.

campaign was waged drawing awareness to the charges, especially around Albert Douglas³, who refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the courts and sat in jail for six months.

The relationships fostered and developed from these first interactions inspired a broader analysis and support for indigenous struggles for self-determination, autonomy and land. In the time to come, Guelphites gave first hand support in further blockades and reclamations in the years to come, and Kanehstaton became the inspiration for the occupation of the Hanlon Creek Business Park in Guelph.

THE GUELPH WOOD SQUAT

The wood squat was located on city land around the intersection of Stone road & Watson road, in and around the former quarries hand dug by prisoners for much of the past century. Large fields and Black Walnut trees populate the cliff tops, along with Lilac thickets and young invasive trees. The cliffs are lined with Cedar trees and all of this is nestled next to the Eramosa river as it winds into the city.

Trees and gardens were planted here, a composting toilet and bike workshop created, and a large house was built of salvaged materials, which included a piano built into the wall. Small dwellings were scattered throughout the site.

After a year of people living at the wood squat, a foundation was poured in the quarry for an ambitious straw bale cabin to prepare for the winter. This became the last straw for the city and police who had previously kept a hands off approach to the squatters, and eviction notices were delivered. This came as a bit of a shock to some squatters, though with hindsight, it would be foolish to not presume they were poking the giant with the pouring of concrete in full view of the police.

In response to the eviction notice, the squatters produced their own eviction notices for the police and the city. With a crowd of twenty people, they posted and

nailed them to the doors of the police station and city hall. graffiti was also left in the hallways of city hall.

Squatters organized a day of obnoxious loitering in the downtown, to hold true to a promise that if the city evicted the squatters they would bring themselves, and their mess, downtown. After chatting with folks on the street about the eviction, shopping carts full of garbage were left blocking the doors to city hall, as a simple *fuck you*. By this time, most squatters had left the wood squat to stay in friends houses in the city. The space had changed from a social environment to an uncertain, isolating place with fear and tensions running high.

3 Albert Douglas was sent to jail after being accused of attacking and stealing the car of OPP & U.S. Alcohol, Firearms and Tobacco officers when they entered the reclamation site.



A statue of John Galt outside of City Hall with notices of eviction hand delivered by wood squatters.

PHOTO: FTP!



The former quarries of Guelph Correctional Institute (Prison) were home to the wood squat near Watson and Stone road.

PHOTO: FTP

On the day of the eviction, a breakfast show was hosted in defiance of the eviction order. A massive banner was hung from the cliffs facing Stone road reading, *save our home*, but both the police or the city never came that day, hoping rather to play the waiting game instead of inviting confrontation.

In the lead up to the squatters day for evicting the police and the city, a call for solidarity was sent out. Around the day of the eviction, anarchists in Tacoma, Washington, responded by attacking billboards and developments in solidarity with the wood squat, and in Santa Cruz, California, they did the same. In Guelph, anarchists cemented shut the toilets of a McDonalds (Olympics sponsor) in solidarity with resistance to the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games and in solidarity with the wood squat.⁴

The day of the proposed eviction of the city and police, someone lit a police van on fire in their parking lot, totalling it, but no claim was ever made public. The media and the police tried to make links between the arson and the call for the eviction of the police. We will never know if they are linked, but we can be sure that a healthy disgust for the police is something to bond over.

Following these actions, a certain level of fear spread from the media association between the wood squatters and these acts of sabotage. The squat was effectively abandoned by most, and the few that remained witnessed the tactical unit (Guelph's SWAT team) patrolling the wood squat with semi-automatic weapons. Obviously, the police were taking serious the claims that contempt towards the police could only come from one place, anarchists.

Today the land sits vacant, used primarily as a park, as it was before and during the wood squat. The city is currently looking to develop the lands adjacent to it, including the old prison, into a biotechnology/agribusiness business park. The tension between former squatters and the city have not completely gone away, and we will likely to see a flaring up of that tension again if development plans go ahead.

MAKING SPACE... FOR YUPPIES

The city has in the works a redevelopment plan for the downtown library, and in the way of this plan is some of the most affordable apartments in Guelph and some of the only businesses catering towards poor people in the downtown. Along with the library comes new townhouses to cater to a new market opening in this city, yuppies. Attracted to Guelph by the new GO Train, downtown expansion and new condo developments downtown, Guelph's population is likely going to grow, along with the rent.

The Family Thrift Store was especially pissed off by this plan because their landlord was evicting them preemptively to make the building easier to sell to the city. When pleas for help from the city and downtown business board went ignored, a long-term enemy was made. If you walk by their new store, Dis-A-Ray, on Wyndham street you'll see in the window constantly changing political satire poking fun at the city and business associates, day after day.

⁴ "...According to Jim Stokes, the city's manager of realty services, "Pouring [concrete] foundations is way beyond what we will allow." The concrete foundation was the beginning of a strawbale home for the winter. Either construction continues or the cement gets used in other ways." -anarchist Communique

The local music community organized a large festival to celebrate the Family Thrift Store and the support it gave to the music scene and poor folks in Guelph. It was a success, with concerts for a week straight, a short documentary being produced and broader awareness of what the city was planning on doing downtown. This festival really highlighted the destruction it was causing in pursuit of a metropolitan dream of profit. This began their strategy of pushing out unique cultures for a wealth market ,ie. yuppies.

In response to this eviction, anarchists organized a squatting action to discuss development in the south end and gentrification in the core. A *pancake breakfast against development* was called and drew a crowd out to mourn the loss of the Family Thrift Store. The doors were unlocked from the inside and the building taken over. People threw up graffiti in the building, and sat in the middle of the now empty room, to talk about development in Guelph and how to resist it. An awkward end to the event invited people to return that evening, but with little enthusiasm, the store sat empty again.

A poster campaign against gentrification downtown followed this action. Dialogue around this issue soon fell out in part because it became apparent that mismanaged funds at the city would leave the buildings empty with no development planned for years to come.

In a time of economic recession and massive debt from city projects, large capital projects like parking garages and the library have been put on hold indefinitely. The city has succeeded in pushing out some of the last refuges for poor folks in the downtown, without bring any new services or housing like their grandiose plans envisioned.

COPS NEW SHOP

The Clair Road Emergency Services Centre opened on June 20th 2011, servicing the sprawl in the south end



The Clair Road Emergency Services station near Gordon road in the south end of town.

PHOTO: FTP

with forty-five day-time police officers. The necessity of this new centre is rooted in a history of sprawl in the south end, approved by the local city council long before infrastructure such as roads, schools and emergency services have been set up. The south end development is desirable to Toronto commuters looking to live in a *sleeper community*.

On November 10th, 2008, about twenty people set up a road blockade across Gordon Road at Clair Road in the south end of Guelph. This action was in solidarity with warriors and supporters threatened with arrest and violence from the police for their actions in their struggle against a new police station in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory.

A barricade of debris was set up across the lightly snow covered road and there were two attempts to set it on fire to impede it's removal. Nails were strewn across the roadway and people with sign's and pamphlets stopped traffic. A police car tried to intervene in the situation and people approached the car and kicked it to make space.

The intention for the blockade was to confront water and policing issues in Guelph⁵, as a form of local solidarity with

5 "The location, the intersection of Clair road and Gordon street, was chosen, because it is a main economic artery on which trucks ship products and natural resources everyday. The day was chosen because it was the same day arrest warrants were being served in Tyendinaga.

In both Tyendinaga and Guelph (and virtually everywhere else) corporate interests threaten the safety of and access to clean water, a fundamental human right. Just down the road from the intersection where the action took place, Nestlé Waters has a permit to extract 3.6 million litres of water per day, all for free. This permit was approved by the Ministry of Environment, despite a massive public outcry in Guelph. The Nestle Water bottling facility is the biggest in North America and poses a direct threat to the quality and quantity of water available in Guelph.

In both Tyendinaga and Guelph funding for police is prioritized over the actual needs of our communities. At the intersection where the action took place a new police station is scheduled to be built. This multi-million dollar endeavour comes at the expense of badly needed social services. In Guelph there is no public funding for safer crack kits, very limited addictions counselling services, and the waiting list for affordable housing includes over 2300 households."

the land defenders in Tyendinaga doing the same thing in their community.

As a result of this action, there was a chase which resulted in five arrests with charges ranging from mischief to arson. These charges came at a time of increased police harassment and surveillance of activists in Guelph. Two years later, of the five arrested, three had their charges diverted, and two were convicted of mischief, each given probation and time served.

On August 3rd, 2010, the new police station was the target of a \$500,000 arson. When the fire department arrived, they found a fire on the second floor of the police station, coming from the elevator control room. The fire burned up into the third floor, causing extensive damage to the near complete building. The damage to the police station caused delays in construction. More than anything, this unclaimed arson demonstrates a contempt for the police that runs deeper in this city than one might see on the surface.

NESTLÉ WATERS, NASTÉE BUSINESS

Nestlé Waters has a bottling plant in Aberfoyle, just south of Guelph. There they have requested a permit to pump 3.6 million litres of water per day from the water supply. This has attracted a fair amount of attention from leftist groups, especially the Wellington Water Watchers (WWW). The WWW have been working for a couple years on creating education campaigns against Nestlé and bottled water, employing tactics similar to the attempt to keep Walmart out of Guelph.

More recently, after a local musician began to march on Nestlé's headquarters every week, community members and the WWW arranged a walk from Guelph to Nestlé's gate, with over two dozen people in attendance. The police escorted the march, which got to Nestlé and blocked the entrance.

In the Summer of 2011, there was a musical preformed at Guelph's Little

Theatre, in the Ward neighbourhood, called *Nastée Business*, using humour and satire to mock the company stealing our water. But political satire and educational campaigns themselves have even taken a toll on the organization, who have repeatedly been threatened with legal action to stop their work.

BIG STANDS, LITTLE FOREST

The Hanlon Creek Business Park (HCBP) is planned to go around a tributary of the Hanlon Creek, including wetlands, and an old growth forest. Since it's inception in 1993, neighbourhood groups have opposed it, taking it to the Ontario Municipal Board but losing their challenge. At the OMB, the city negotiated a gag order of the neighbourhood group opposed to the project.

In late 2008, Land Is More Important Than Sprawl (LIMITS) began in an attempt to organize public awareness and resistance to the development of the HCBP. LIMITS hosted a variety of events, media spectacles, camp outs on the site and walking tours through the old-growth forest, which stirred up popular opposition to the HCBP. It soon became the talk of the town, with all sorts of groups criticizing the city's efforts to build this godawful park.

Soon into the group's inception, an undercover police officer joined the group, with the intention of monitoring LIMITS and infiltrating anarchists. "Khalid Mohammad" was present from the beginning of LIMITS, during the occupation of the Hanlon Creek, and for close to a year afterwards. A second undercover named "Brenda Dougherty" was also present during the occupation.

On Monday, July 27th, at 6:30am, about sixty people walked in and stopped construction on the Hanlon Creek site. The occupation lasted nineteen days, receiving massive support in Guelph and abroad. Local farmers and supporters would bring a wealth of food and

resources to the site, and hundreds of people maintained the camp.

The occupation sparked a wealth of discussion within leftist circles, they feared voicing their opinions and potentially burning bridges they had worked so hard on building. Because of this the left and political organizations were largely absent from the resistance to the park. Individual supporters, farmers, indigenous communities, quarry activists and youth made up the majority of the occupying forces.

The occupation created the first opportunity for settlers in Guelph to ask for support from folks at Six Nations in our own struggles for land. An important part of the struggle for the Hanlon Creek was connecting to indigenous struggles for land and autonomy. Black flags, along with Haudenosaunee Confederacy Flags and Mohawk Warrior flags flew at the site, and explicit support of the action was expressed by traditional councils in Six Nations.

Within the context of the Hanlon Creek occupation, a temporary space was opened up to talk about development in Southern Ontario, and people flocked from far and wide to participate in these discussions. Talks were held about tree sits in Santa Cruz & squatted social centres in Montreal. Workshops were provided on building tripods for blocking developments and roads, and plant and tree walks were taken throughout the old growth. On the Saturday, August 2nd, 2010, a large gathering was hosted at the site to show the popular support for the end of this project, with over 200 people coming throughout the day.

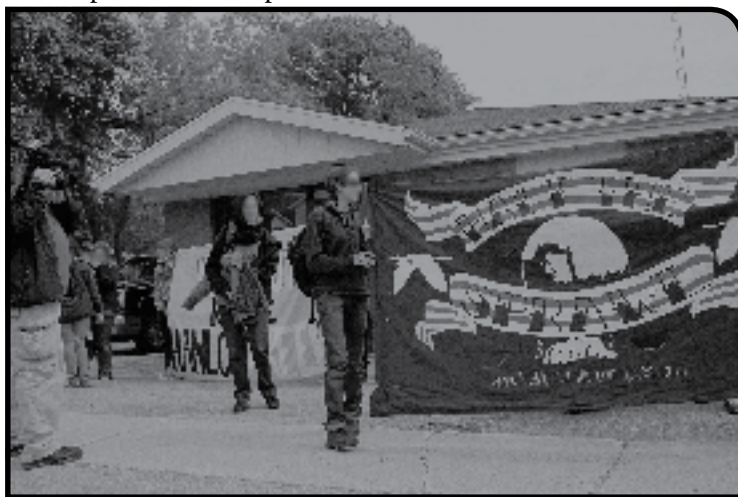
Soon after, court began in the legal battle between seven defendants and LIMITS, over an injunction to making it a criminal offence to be on the site, combined with a five million lawsuit. In lieu of a decision, the court allowed the occupiers to remain on the site, and stopped construction until a ruling went through. The catch? No new people were

allowed on the site. This effectively limited the occupiers strongest weapon, which was introducing people to the old growth threatened by the city. This time spent in legal limbo also provided a climate of paranoia about uncertain futures of the occupation, and the likelihood of a violent confrontation with the police.

Shortly after this, the end of the occupation came when a judge granted the injunction against the occupiers. She also granted an injunction against the city, passing the buck to politicians in Ottawa to make decisions on our lives in Guelph. Not surprisingly, Ottawa allowed the city to continue with this capital project, and work was soon to resume.

As the struggle continued off site, satirical posters were produced encouraging people to defend themselves from developers. Two anarchists were arrested for putting up anti-police graffiti and these posters in the downtown.

It was reported that thousands of dollars worth of water monitoring equipment were stolen from the site, and a number of the billboards advertising the site were cut down. On one of the predominant billboards selling the site, the words *cancelled* were pasted across it. Around this time, a number of other development sites in the city were vandalized with paint, expressing a broader critique of development in Guelph.



An attempted occupation of Carson Reids Office.

PHOTO: KC HORNSBY



“Developer Safety” Poster adapted from *Swift Winds* by Ron Sakolsky. Publisher: Eberhardt Press

PHOTO: FTP



What is left of the billboards littering the site of the proposed HCBP site. Across the logo is written, “Cancelled.” Looks good.

PHOTO: FTP

At this point, a home of the owner of a company working on the HCBP was approached by a group calling themselves, *Friends of the Hanlon Creek*, who read a letter asking them to stop work on the project. The police released a politicized report calling it intimidation and threatening, but when two members of the group stepped forward turning themselves into the police, the police locked their doors and dropped the investigation days later. It was clear their intentions were to scare people away from resisting the business park, turning it into an issue of the occupier’s illegality.

To try and get some positive publicity for the park, or possibly to pick a fight, the city organized a sod turning ceremony on the weekend of Halloween. Former occupiers called a mock sod turning ceremony of their own at the welcome gate. Dressed in costumes of a grim reaper, rich millionaires, Robin Hood, Barnie and others, they dug a grave and held a ceremony for the death of the Hanlon Creek. As the politicians and developers came and went, they were yelled and spat at by the crowd. Their busses were blocked from leaving as people yelled, creating yet another tarnished media spectacle for the business park.

Carson Reid’s, a wealthy local developer, was reported as trying to buy into the project. Former occupiers responded by organizing an action to occupy their offices. The occupation failed, but a crowd of sixty marched to city hall to call on the end of the lawsuit and the business park. On multiple occasions since then, broken windows and anarchist graffiti have been left at Carson Reid’s offices.

On October 20th, 2010, a day long blockade of a Capital Paving aggregate quarry in Wellington County was held to further oppose the HCBP. Capital Paving had picked up a contract at the Business Park months before. In pure frustration at the situation, the manager of the quarry yelled at the blockaders

about the thousands of dollars this was costing him.

Since the Occupation, the city has been able to put in two years of work on the site, reducing the adjacent fields to a moon scape. The central forest, however, which the struggle was waged for, is still intact. Even today if development was halted on the land, the forest would be saved from being surrounded by a business park and the fields could regenerate, sustaining life.

BUILDING A REPUTATION

During the summer of the Occupation, another project was facing some resistance in Guelph. At Edinburgh and Gordon road, a developer was trying to build a large apartment building on land currently never developed, an extension of the Hanlon Creek Wetlands. The site provides small field and forest cover for mammals and a preferred road crossing

for deer and animals on Gordon. The GRCA worked out a land swap deal with the developer which allowed them to now build an apartment on a previously undeveloped hunk of land.

Neighbourhood groups and neighbours made petitions and went to public meetings to voice their opposition to the project, which fell only on deaf city councillor's ears. Folks opposed to the project approached some Hanlon Creek occupiers, seeing if there was any interest in throwing in their two cents; and inviting them to a public hearing about the development.

At the public meeting, the developer was approached with a kind greeting and a hand shake, and informed that the Hanlon Creek occupiers were taking particular interest in his business venture. With that, he was left stunned, seeing the potential for another head ache like the Hanlon Creek now in his hands.



The first day of the Hanlon Creek Business Park occupation, occupiers sit on top of an excavator.

PHOTO: FTP

WHERE TO GROW FROM HERE

“As the years have gone by I’ve continuously been surprised at how this city has grown to be. I remember playing in the woods as a child in places where there are now parking lots, suburban houses and big box stores. I remember going outside to play with friends in the fields, picking flowers and running around. I remember when the housing developments came in and there was no longer anywhere to explore aside from the thin line of trees next to the well paved park.”

With all of this history, what are we left with? how do we grow our resistance to development? What do we build as alternatives in their wake?

Currently our water is under constant threat. The Dolime Quarry broke into the cities aquifer and is now applying for a permit to mine aggregate at twice the speed. The proposed Mega-Quarry in Shelburn is threatening the headwaters of four watersheds, including our own. Nestlé Waters continues to operate two bottling plants in Wellington County. The Hanlon Creek Business Park furthers the city’s history of paving over wetlands.

The Land occupied by the wood squat has a future shockingly similar to the HCBP, if the city has their way. The Reid family continues to build subdivisions closing the gap between the 401 and Guelph, and big box stores continue to pop up in Guelph selling products that are destroying and displacing communities through mining, waste and poor wages.

Even with a rich history of resistance in this city, what continues to happen

is really depressing. Furthermore, that history has been made invisible to most people who live here.

But there is something rumbling under our feet. It still exists more as a desire than as a tangible project we can touch and feel. It exists when people come together to occupy land, whether as a community/ guerrilla garden or to halt construction at a business park. We feel it when we laugh at a play using satire to tell a sobering story. We can touch it when we share with our neighbours, trading vegetables from our garden for childcare. These are moments where we share real autonomy, and anything becomes possible.

These stories of resistance must go hand in hand with our stories of creating moments of freedom in our lives. They are small projects, but a growing movement takes time. We may have had losses over the years but when we take our futures into our own hands, we inspire others. While one person might pick up a rock, the other might pick up a shovel. Each action bring us closer to complete community sovereignty.

RELEVANT READINGS FOR SETTLER HISTORY’S OF COLONIZATION:



About the Grand River, Grand River Conservation Authority
The Children of Aataentsic, and Natives and Newcomers, Bruce Trigger
Huron Wendat: The Heritage of the Circle, Georges E. Sioui
Illustrated History of the Chippewas of Nawash, Polly Keeshig-Tobias
The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents
Wetland Restoration, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources



Together We Eat & Grow

Interview with the founder of the Two River Community Garden

BY ANON

I had been given this book; *Real Food for a Change*, by a woman who was working at the Two Rivers Neighbourhood Group. There were like probably five moms who have started this neighbourhood group and we all had little kids. When she gave me this book and when I read it I was floored! I didn't realize how the food system in Canada worked. Even though I had a backyard and I didn't really need garden space, I was just like "oh I have to start a community garden, this is crazy!". One of the ideas that the author presented as an idea for this situation. That was back in 2000, and that spring and summer I biked around all over looking for land.

In the Ward it was really hard to find something that wasn't contaminated. There was the spot where the beer store used to be on Stevenson and I didn't know if was contaminated. I thought "oh, here's some vacant land" and then you do all the research, you find out who owns it and then you find out that it's totally contaminated. There's that little place on Beverley, we dug and then we found out it was contaminated. At six Wyndham, where that apartment building is, that used to be vacant and fenced in and I called the real estate agent on the sign and it was looking potentially promising and then it was sold and developed. So, thank god I didn't start anything there because it would have been finished in about a year or two. The city land all around the river is all infill and so I didn't really think that was a good idea.

There was a guy at the city that was sort of supportive but he said "well we tried that back in the 70's and the groundhogs were a real problem and it just fell apart". So we said okay, well fuck that.

I don't know why it took me so long to find that spot of Huron street. because it's just right there. Oh, wait! I remember! I found out who owned it, it was Habitat for Humanity but they weren't going to be able to build on it because there's a limestone ridge going through it and so

it would cost way too much money to blast the site to get sewage and all that. So, they were in the process of giving it back to original owners which was the roman catholic diocese of Hamilton, but it hadn't been done yet so I had to wait until the next year where I got in touch with them. I spoke to this guy named John O'Brien. I just asked and he said "sure!". We had no plan put together, there was nothing. I didn't have to submit a formal request or anything I just said "this is what we want to do" and he said, "that sounds like a good use for the space, so go for it!". They don't have any restrictions or regulations for us, they never asked for anything in writing it's just a very informal agreement that, knock on wood, has worked for a very long time.

The first year we had about five of eight plots maybe. It was mainly just me begging my friends to come dig it up, it was all grass at the time, well actually Bindweed. I didn't know what it was at the time until it was too late. It just went from there. Once people were on the site they could see what it could be and by the second year it had doubled. The first year was very loosey-goosey I guess and it was a tight knit group. We did as much outreach as we could; like flyering around asking people if they wanted to join a community garden, but it was until the second year where it expanded to about twenty-five people. That's when we started thinking about making guideline because, you know, some people still thought it was okay to use chemical fertilizers and stuff. So, we quickly realized we had to formalize things. It's just kept going from there.

I'm trying to think about what my backyard looked like at the time. I had planted peas, beans and those sort of basic things. When I used to live in Ottawa we had a little raised bed. My daughter was about a year old that summer. I knew some of the basics but I didn't know anything about pests, or... well I didn't know anything really. I don't really

remember doing anything but putting peas in the ground and then they grew and that was it! But, certainly when you get a bunch of people on the same site and they're all planting similar things, the bugs find you and then you end up having to address these things. So, we just learned as we went. People would often ask me for advice and so I would go to the library and find a book and start reading it. We would experiment with things like a little dish soap, pepper, cayenne sprays. But, I quickly realized that the best thing to do was to plant a diversity of things. I never have to resort to things like that in my own garden and I don't because I don't care. Bugs ate my one broccoli plant. It's just one plant. My philosophy is that they need to eat too.

So yeah, I really didn't know anything. But, it didn't take that long to learn. When you love something it's really easy to learn. The beautiful part about a community garden is that... well we have gone on this community garden tour of Toronto, which at the time was phenomenal to me, because at the time Guelph had nothing like this even though Guelph is supposed to be this "green place". Meanwhile, we went to Toronto and within twenty blocks there was just such a diversity of community gardens. And the gardeners themselves! And what's growing! There's people growing stuff you've never seen! I found that too over here. Between the bunch of us we kind of have it covered. As long as we were sharing knowledge and stuff it worked. Yeah, it was pretty cool.

It's funny, because when I think about the garden now, especially with the informality with the church, it feels like one big guerrilla garden. I remember asking them "would it be okay if we planted some trees"? And he said "yeah, sure just keep them to the edges" so that if anything ever happens to the site they wouldn't have to be cut down, you know. They could just build around. And then, once there were some trees there, no one ever asked again and people just started

planting trees wherever. And, now there's trees everywhere! Ha ha. I don't know if the guy from the diocese has ever been by... ha ha ha, I'm sure he has, but he obviously doesn't care because I haven't gotten that phone call that was like "I said to keep them to the edges!". So yeah, it seems like a really unique kind of situation. It's just



like a guerrilla garden. The space was just there and the people were free to grow whatever they wanted. Obviously within the limits of no pesticides or anything like that.

Two Rivers
Community
Garden

PHOTO: FTP

Right now there's a mattress spring bean growing thing and some boots at the garden! Ha ha ha.

I've seen the Ward change a lot in the last ten years. I know that there's been a lot of diverse reactions to the community garden. There's some people that are

wonder what's new this week and I just love it"! And I appreciated hearing that so much because sometimes you're not there when people are there and you don't know what their reaction is. You definitely hear it when people don't like it because they are vocal about it, but you don't always necessarily hear it when people do like it.

I feel like there are people in the neighbourhood that are not gardening there, they aren't member but they do enjoy the space. There is a children's garden that is run in conjunction with the Two Rivers Community Group that runs as after school program at Tytler School, which is great because kids need to do that.

One of the things I regret not doing is having like an Italian gardening tour in the Ward and hook up with all those gardeners to learn from them and see what they're doing and see their techniques. The Italian gardeners in the Ward are amazing! They do a lot of things I don't do like straight rows, but they garden by the moon which somebody might raise their eye and say, "what do you mean they garden by the moon?", but it's just like... Yeah, of course!

Oh! I want to tell you the burning couch story! So, the second year was completely different. I had so many people and I was trying to organize the plots and we needed structure. The project just sort of exploded and we weren't quite ready for it, but luckily I had someone that had offered to help coordinate. That made a huge difference. He was also like super ambitious and enthusiastic and so he started putting on all these workshops, Anyways, so that fall I got this phone call and I was so exhausted right, and I got a call from this neighbour across the road and they said, "well I just wanted to let you know there's this couch that's on fire in the community garden". At the time, and if you haven't seen the site, there were gardens in the lower part of the hill, but at the top was sort of still this dead zone area. There was like this gravel pile



Tool shed at
Two Rivers
Community
Garden

PHOTO: FTP

like "that's not how you garden, you garden in straight rows!" and then one time I was trick-or-treating of Toronto street. when my kids were little and the woman recognized me and she said "oh the community garden! Every Sunday when I'm going to church my husband and I go through and marvel at it and

and like a path and just dead grass... but now there's a burning couch! And like, I don't drive, I don't have a vehicle and I guess she said "don't work I called the fire department, they're probably going to come and put the fire out, but they're probably going to come over.

So, by the time I got there there's like charred remains of a couch, which turned out to be a sofa bed to deal with. I basically ended up by throwing myself on the ground and sobbing. I was just like "I don't know how to do this, what am I doing? Why would somebody do this? Was that fun for you guys? Because now it's not going to be fun for me"! Anyways, I volunteered this guy with a pickup truck, and they came and got it. I don't know if it was because of my little drama... my prima donna fit.

Since then we haven't really had anything like that happen. I mean we've had tomatoes stolen or squashes in the road. But, we haven't really had that kind of vandalism again. Thank god... that was crazy. Now there's nowhere to put a couch, you'd have a forest fire there if you'd try to light one.

I think our biggest year we had fifty-five members. That's not the amount of plots, I think we had about twenty-eight our biggest year. But, fifty-five people people working on it, like roommates sharing a plots, families or whatever. Right now I would guess we have about thirty members, without the people that are coming and going and snacking!

Anyways, to me, making urban space into more wild spaces is the number one priority. Community gardens aren't exactly wild. I mean Two Rivers is a bit more wild than other community garden and the community gardens that are starting to pop up in Guelph are definitely more regimented, more directed and more traditional I guess. But, they're still super valuable and I think that will evolve. People's focus is food security right now, it's the trendy thing like local, local, blah blah. But, I think as that becomes more

sort of matter of course what will sort of happen is that you'll get trees involved. Like the school board right now is not agreeing to have an orchard on their land yet, but I think that eventually you'll see an orchard. Let's hope they don't because that's not my thing either. My hope is that food will grow more naturally. Like, you don't have to cut down a bunch of trees to make a farmer's field to plant stuff with a tractor. That wasn't how it has always been and when these gardens are alive and don't need implements every year that is like the real dream. And, Two Rivers is getting there for sure. I'm going to plant annuals. I love tomatoes, but having most of it done and just coming back is the way to go!

There's doing stuff by the rules and doing stuff underground. I think there's a good mix. Like we're getting lot of policy. City Hall is really supportive, the school board is really supportive and organizations are popping up. There's a community garden network in Guelph, so there's going to be that kind of support for community gardens and hopefully someday we'll be able to brag about how many community gardens we have. I mean five years ago we have one and Kitchener had thirty. Kitchener... really? Like really, what is wrong with Guelph?

What I hope is that are people planting stuff outside of the community garden and all over the city. Last summer I stumbled across one that me and my friend Matt had planted. A cheesy little heart shaped one near the church of our lady. None of us knew what we were doing but it's completely mad now. Like a mulberry tree next to a rose bush. But, there's a vegetable garden behind it now which made me so happy. Like, holy shit that's so cool. And there's little pocket all over this city.

So, yeah stating a community garden is not as hard as you think. During the second year at Two Rivers we got a 700 dollar grant to build a shed from Meridian. It's really not that difficult to find funds. People are always willing to

give you stuff. It can be very formalized or not. It's amazing what you can do this a lot of heart and desire. Now I'm going to get all sentimental.


There's something called the Guelph-Wellington Food Roundtable that stated a couple of years ago and they have a

community garden committee that is putting together a booklet of how to make a community garden. The first draft is going around for change but it'll be ready for the fall online and in hard copy.

So, yeah!

RESOURCES:

Guelph Wellington Food Roundtable - www.gwfrt.com
On Guerrilla Gardening - www.guerrillagardening.org
On Permaculture - www.permacultureprinciples.com



See pages
40 and 41
for locations
mentioned
in this article
on a sweet
pull-out map
of Guelph.



A Spark in the Dark:

The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) in Southern Ontario from 2005 to 2006

ANONYMOUS

There are so many things of beauty, in this world to see. A wild, running river, or an old-growth redwood tree. But in such an ugly situation, so sinister and dire, there's nothing quite as lovely, as a development on fire." – *ELF Communique for development arson at Summit Ridge road, Guelph June 27th, 2006*

What would it look like to have moose come back to Southern Ontario? Can you imagine a pack of Grey wolves re-inhabiting their territory feeding on a deer carcass at the mouth of the Don River? What would it feel like to touch the chestnut trees and towering Oak trees four meters wide in the Carolinian forests around Lake Ontario two hundred years ago. Imagine a clean river, a continuous forest, an undisturbed ecosystem. In Southern Ontario these are memories of our collective past. Like a photograph of a lost love, we lose perspective of the contours, the nuances and eventually the picture, until someday even the memory is gone. The act of remembering, of knowing what we lost, and what there still is to lose, is a struggle in itself. In short, we have everything to gain when we struggle for the land. Our lives depend on it. There are three letters

which turn a singular act of sabotage into a threateningly organized attack on environmentally destructive development. The letters are E, L, and F, – an acronym for the Earth Liberation Front. If these letters accompanied an arsoned ski resort in Vail, Colorado, a destroyed housing development on the edge of Mexico City, or a newly-built Zellers in Guelph, Ontario, it meant a guarantee of war on developers. The ELF was founded in Brighton, England in 1992 and ELF actions spread throughout England by 1994. By 2011 the ELF had attacked developments in seventeen countries with the majority of actions happening in North America. The main goal of the Earth Liberation Front actions was to do economic damage that would remove the profit motive from environmentally-destructive corporations.

In 2001, the Earth Liberation Front was called, "The number one domestic terrorist organization in America," by FBI, despite having never injured anyone in their acts of sabotage. The ELF in Southern Ontario was active from 2005

until 2007, with the majority of actions claimed by the group in Guelph. The first ELF arson of a Zellers on Stone Road in 2005 marked a new era of corporate and anti-government sabotage in Guelph. Between 2005 and 2006 there were approximately fourteen direct actions carried out by the ELF. Between 2005 and 2010 there were over fifty attacks around Southern Ontario, that targeted new developments, construction equipment, banks, the police, the military, politicians, and large corporations, many of which were carried out anonymously, or by anti-authoritarians and anarchists. The spark of sabotage initiated by the ELF, changed the terrain of struggle for the radical left, anarchists, and environmentalists as it seems the tactic of sabotage was embraced by many.

THE ORIGINS OF LAND DEFENSE AND SABOTAGE

The white man seeks to conquer nature, to bend it to his will and use it wastefully until it is all gone and then he simply moves on, leaving the waste behind him and finding new places to take. The whole white race is a monster who is always hungry, and what he eats is land.”
-Chiksika to his brother Tecumseh, March 19th, 1779

Sabotage was used as a tactic of environmental defense long before the first ELF arson in Guelph. Instances of environmentally-based sabotage and land

defense in the west date back to the Digger attacks and communalisation of private property in England in 1649. The anti-technological Luddite attacks on factories in England beginning

in 1811, spurred by factory mechanization and mass-unemployment. In more contemporary history, sabotage as a tactic was used by the Animal Liberation Front and Earth First before the Earth Liberation Front was formed.

There are also countless acts of territorial defense by Indigenous Nations in North America to settler encroachment, development and genocide spanning the last 500 years of colonization. The “Oka Crisis”, the Kanesatake land defense of their traditional burial ground from a Golf Course development in 1990, in which indigenous nations from across Canada set up blockades and downed power-lines to pressure the Federal government to remove its military siege of 50 Mohawk warriors and children. The Grassy Narrows blockades of logging trucks in Anishenabeg Territory beginning in 2002, and the 2006 Kanenhstaton reclamation of Six Nations land from a housing developer, in which roads were blocked, burning barricades were erected and a power generating station was lit on fire after unwarranted O.P.P violence on the Reclamation site all are examples of the use of land defense sabotage to further a struggle. It is a common cross-cultural idea that individuals and whole communities defend their land-bases and resist predatorial development.

GREEN ANARCHISM CATCHES FIRE

At the turn of the millennium, peak oil became a mainstream concept, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was giving yearly updates on a swift and violent mass extinction through the dangers of global warming. Kyoto was failing and the only political solutions offered involved government collusion with developers, from the tar-sands down. An appropriate solution was offered by the radicals: mass resistance to capitalist development and an attempt to defend traditional earth based cultures and build new thriving counter-cultures.

ILLUSTRATION: APPLE TUBBS



The publication *Green Anarchy* was the largest North American Anarchist periodical with a distribution at its apex of 10 000 copies. Anti-civilization political discourse, primitivism, and green anarchism were also fiercely defended and widely held political positions in various anti-authoritarian milieus throughout the continent. Anti-civilization anarchists advocate a return to non-”civilized” ways of life through de-industrialisation, abolition of the division of labour or specialization, and abandonment of large-scale organization technologies. Most anarchists oppose capitalist technological developments as inherently exploitative, in the harvesting of primary resources and the degradation of labour and the environment during the productive process. This trend re-framed debates in anti-authoritarian circles from human exploitation to the exploitation of the environment.

THE LOGIC OF THE EARTH LIBERATION FRONT

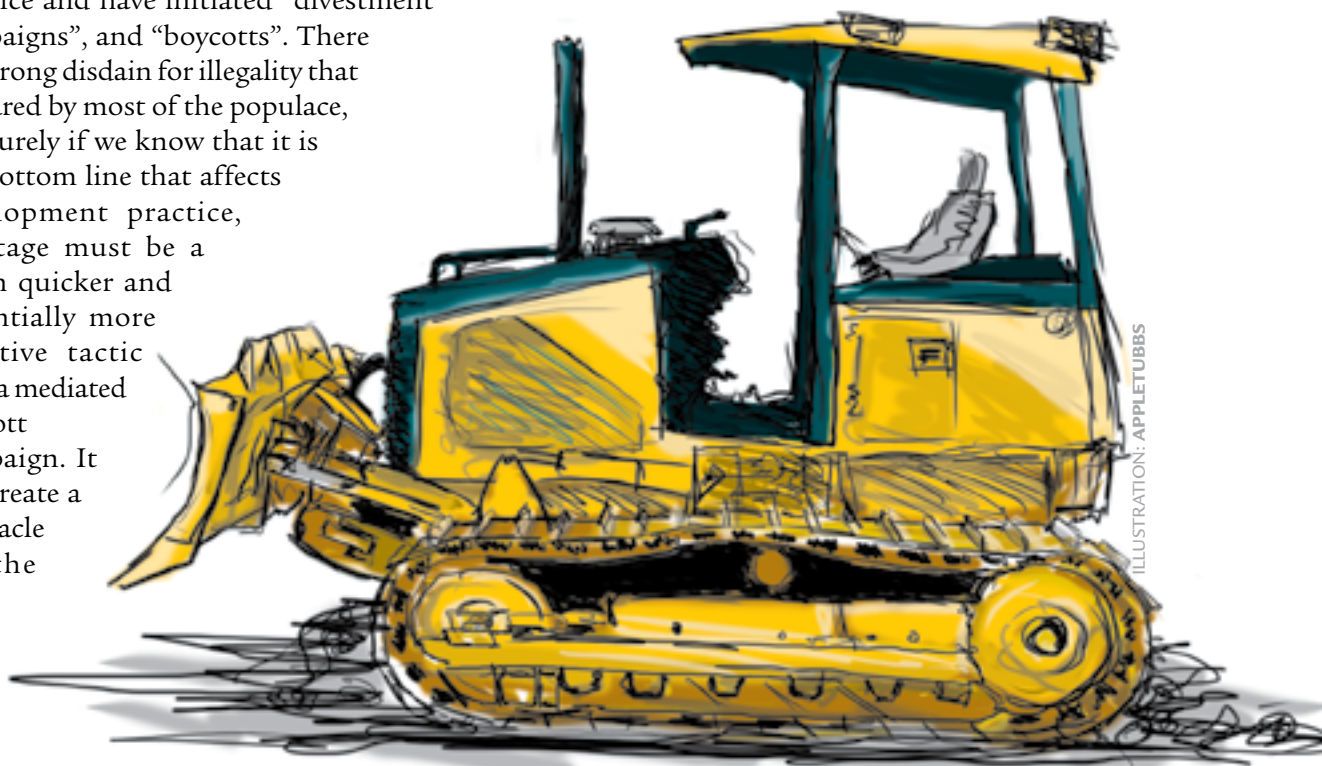
Mainstream ecological groups have long known that profit margin is the most viable way to stop a corporation’s unethical practice and have initiated “divestment campaigns”, and “boycotts”. There is a strong disdain for illegality that is shared by most of the populace, but surely if we know that it is the bottom line that affects development practice, sabotage must be a much quicker and potentially more effective tactic than a mediated boycott campaign. It can create a spectacle of the

negative effects of a destructive corporation or corporate practice, because it is aimed at immediately stopping or economically damaging the corporation involved in such practices.

THE RISE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN EARTH LIBERATION FRONT

“To my friends and supporters to help them make sense of all these events that have happened so quickly: Certain human cultures have been waging war against the Earth for millennium. I chose to fight on the side of bears, mountain lions, skunks, bats, saguaros, cliff rose and all things wild. I am just the most recent casualty in that war. But tonight I have made a jail break – I am returning home, to the Earth, to the place of my origins. Bill, 12/21/05 (the winter solstice.)
-*Suicide Note of William “Avalon” Rodgers in State custody*

Between 1996 and 1999 There were approximately thirty ELF attacks in the



United States. A high profile arson destroyed the U.S Forest Industries headquarters causing over one million dollars in damage. In October 1998, a large ELF arson happened in Vail, Colorado at a ski-resort expansion causing an estimated twelve million dollars in damages. The communique for the action stated:

“Vail, Inc. is already the largest ski operation in North America and now wants to expand even further. The twelve miles (nineteen km) of roads and 885 acres (3.58 km²) of clear-cuts will ruin the last, best lynx habitat in the state. Putting profits ahead of Colorado’s wildlife will not be tolerated.”

The sabotage continued in the early 2000’s focusing on Genetic Modification (GM) facilities and university GM research stations, government buildings and vehicles, SUV car lots, upscale condominium developments, upscale suburban developments and a horse slaughterhouse. In December 2005, government agents carried out Operation Backfire and charged fourteen people with a variety of crimes related to eco-sabotage in the Pacific Northwest. Some of the defendants were charged with terrorism enhancements and faced potential life in prison sentencing. Four of the fourteen charged Daniel McGowan, Jonathon Paul, Joyanna Zacher and Nathan Block did not cooperate and received sentences of four to eight years served largely in isolation units. William “Avalon” Rodgers, committed suicide his first night in detention on December 21st, 2005.

Other notable ELF prisoners in the last decade are: Tre Arrow, sentenced to seventy-eight months in prison for two arsons in 2001 and released in 2009; Marie Mason sentenced to twenty-two years in prison for thirteen counts of arson from 1999-2000; Jeff Luers, sentenced to twenty-two years in prison for the arson of three trucks at a car lot in 2000 and released in

2010; Eric McDavid, sentenced to nearly twenty years in 2006 for conspiracy to arson the United States Forest Service, Institute of Forest Genetics; and Rod Coronado, sentenced to over a decade in various American prisons for his role in the Animal Liberation and Earth Liberation Fronts. Rod Coronado, a Yaqui Indian, dedicated his life to environmental defense sabotage. He destroyed many the fur farms in the Northwestern United States with the Western Wildlife Unit, sunk half of Iceland’s whaling fleet and sabotaged countless Mountain Lion hunting expeditions and animal testing facilities. In recent years, Coronado has been re-institutionalized in prison for several probation violations. One such violation was answering a question about incendiary devices at a public speech and another was “Friending” an environmental activist on Facebook.

SOUTHERN ONTARIO EARTH LIBERATION FRONT

“If you build it we will burn it.”
– *Communique from an arson of suburban sprawl on Summit Ridge Road, Guelph, June 27th 2006.*

In June 2005, a fire started in a newly developed Zellers causing several hundred thousand dollars damage. “ELF” was left spray painted at the scene. Later in the summer: the sabotage of seven construction machines at a development, followed by a large arson at The Cutten Golf and Country Club in October. Between the summer of 2005 and the summer of 2006 there were at least fourteen separate acts of targeted property destruction in Guelph and Southern Ontario.

On January 30th 2006, The ELF burned a development on Gordon Street and Clairfield Road in Guelph’s sprawling South-end neighborhood. The action was dedicated to the memory of deceased Earth Liberationist William Rodgers. In the communique they state,

“We are at war, even if the images of spectacular daily life try to make us believe the contrary. We have not chosen these social conditions ourselves, we can only choose from what positions to fight... Our position is that of combatants between two worlds – one that we don’t acknowledge, the other that does not yet exist.”

On January 31st, *the Guelph Mercury* published an article with Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) Spokesperson, Barbara Campion. She said that “there seems to be some attack on Guelph....It’s a smaller community, you would never think Guelph would be a hotbed of radical activity.” Throughout the spring and summer of 2006, there were at least six more sabotages of developments and construction machines in Guelph.

In July 2006, the ELF attacks spread to Toronto, Brantford, and London, Ontario. In downtown Toronto on July 14th 2006, a Citiplace Condominium development had over two million dollars in damages inflicted when someone put dirt into the gas tanks and air filters of a dozen pieces of excavating equipment. In Brantford, between July 17th and 19th there were five suburban sprawl sites sabotaged and claimed by the ELF. In London, between July 21st and July 24th: a Home Depot, Toyota dealership, and four construction sites were vandalized. “Stop destroying the earth” was written in grease on one of the machines. The last known ELF attributed attack on development in Southern Ontario occurred with the fire of a suburban development at a Reid’s Heritage Home construction site on August 3rd, 2006. The president of the company claimed the fire caused 10 000 dollars in damages.

The ELF attacks in 2005 and 2006 in Southern Ontario caused several million dollars in damage to corporations. The sabotage created controversy in

the Guelph public about sprawl. It was met by public condemnation, from all mainstream media sources, local politicians, liberal left activist groups and the corporations disturbed. Waves of politically-based sabotage have continued in Guelph, largely practiced by anarchist and anti-authoritarian groups. However, the ELF moniker and attack on suburban sprawl and construction machines has subsided completely.

CHASING A SHADOW

“You don’t know who you are dealing with and it’s hard to deal with a shadow.” – *Guelph City Councilor Dan Moziar, 2006*

After an estimated 1300 actions, the Earth Liberation Front has largely ceased activity in North America. The diminishing presence of the cell-structured organization could be attributed to the high-profile repressive sentencing of some of its members, or the decline of green anarchism in the mid 2000’s as a political philosophy and identity in favour of insurrectionalism. Insurrectionalism attempts to exploit existing tensions in society and push for large scale social revolt. Even the ELF’s most ardent spokespeople have identified a desire to move away from the tactics of the Earth Liberation Front. In a letter from prison, Rod Coronado wrote:

“In my years past I have argued that economic sabotage was an appropriate tactic for our time. Like all strategists I have also been forced to recognize that times have changed and it is now my belief that the movements to protect earth and animals have achieved enough with this strategy to now consider an approach that does not compromise objectives, but increases the likelihood of real social change.”

At the time of his arrest, six years after his involvement in the Earth Liberation Front, Daniel McGowan was working for an organization called WomensLaw, which helps women in intimate violence situations navigate the legal system. In a letter called Reflections On December 7th, written exactly two years after his initial arrest, Daniel gave analysis of his role in Earth Liberation actions:

“For me, the tactics were not the driving force in my actions but were the means to an end. In fact, the use of fire caused me great anxiety and I felt it was generally used with little strategy as we were trapped in a self-created race to be more “effective.” This led to strategy and ideas taking a back seat to the ‘why,’ which is infinitely more important to any discussion of what we were trying to do.”

A SPARK IN THE DARK: THE LIMITS OF NIGHT SABOTAGE WITH NO STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE MOVEMENT

Having an active Earth Liberation cell in a small town of activists and anarchists had a peculiar impact on organizing in Guelph. The Earth Liberation Front actions were never connected to a larger environmental defense movement in Guelph and it is hard to imagine the ELF ever being supported by a mass movement. The extreme and dangerous types of actions that were carried out made any kind of communication about the choice of targets or tactics used seem undesirable. Often, large acts of property destruction would be met in the radical community with silence or the occasional, “did you hear another development got burned.” The added law enforcement surveillance and fears of heavy handed repression on subversives caused a communal low-level stress felt by many people involved in radical networks.

On the other hand the Earth Liberation activity was praised by anarchists and anti-authoritarians from different cities, and many young anarchists visited or moved to Guelph, under the guise that

Guelph had a real opposition movement to development. Based on the half-truth, an above ground ecodefense movement was built in later years with the labour of the many new people to Guelph. In other radical networks Guelph anti-authoritarians had developed a reputation for sabotage. At a demonstration against the Atlantica trade deal in Halifax in 2007, the East-Coast anarchists suggested the anarchists should “Guelph it,” presumably turning the demonstration into a riot.

To an outsider radical, it seemed like Guelph was the forefront of radical opposition to development. This in turn made outsiders move to Guelph and form a thriving radical opposition for a few years. The ELF marked an uncomfortable tension for many and mainly existed as a non-existent organization that one only heard about in the newspapers or radical media. Still, there was a recognition by all radicals in Guelph that someone was putting their personal freedom in grave danger to defend the earth from the banal violence of city planners and developers. The ELF sabotages marked a new period of anti-authoritarian sabotage in Guelph and for three or four years, direct action sabotage was a routine occurrence in the city. It is safe to say the ELF actions inspired the sabotage tactics later seen in Guelph, as there was little history of the employment of those tactics before the ELF campaigns began. The problem was that there could be no public support of the ELF. No one wanted to associate publicly with a wanted criminal organization.

POTENTIAL FOR LARGE PRISON SENTENCES

No one in Southern Ontario has been arrested or charged with sabotage-related cases pertaining to the ELF yet. The case history of the RBC bank arson in Ottawa on May 18th, 2010, and prominent ELF prisoner sentences in the United States have left people serving sentences between four and twenty-five years. If

someone was convicted for the ELF actions in Southern Ontario, they could face similar sentencing depending on the circumstances of the case(s). The threat of a long-term prison sentence could be emotionally draining on an individual. The indictment and sentencing of allies in struggle has the potential to destroy radical communities with pressure, loss, and fear. Or it can bring them together in support of an imprisoned comrade. Maybe no one will ever be caught for these actions. We must ask ourselves if the long term imprisonment of a comrade was worth the tactics employed for defense of the land. In hindsight, it is easier now to weigh the actions' effectiveness for future struggles as one tactic in a toolbox.

IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT

A primary goal of the Earth Liberation Front in Southern Ontario could have been to significantly slow down the rapidity of sprawling development around Guelph. Did the actions slow down development at all? In the summer of 2008, during the middle of the Great Recession, The Guelph Mercury announced only Guelph and Calgary had a growing percentage of new home construction within Canada. The developments attacked in 2005 and 2006 have been dwarfed by thousands of new units that mark the expanding edge of Guelph. It seems that Guelph, as the epicenter for anti-development sabotage in Canada made very little impact on the process of development or the rapidity in which developments took place.

There are several positive social effects of the ELF actions that have had lasting impacts on Guelph and maybe other parts of Southern Ontario. The ELF sabotage sparked a lot of controversy and dinner table conversations. Many Guelph residents probably formed polarized opinions on sprawl, corporate city planning, sabotage, arson and direct-action based environmentalism during

these high-profile attacks. Although it is hard to gauge public opinion over mainstream journalistic condemnation of the ELF sabotage, the concept of the ELF, and the frustrations of the ELF with development capitalist development models in Southern Ontario permeated the public consciousness of Guelph.

Public anti-sprawl and anti-development campaigns like Land Is More Important Than Sprawl (LIMITS) and the opposition to the Hanlon Creek Business Park developed with similar motives behind the original E.L.F actions. It was arguably the ELF that did the ground work of introducing anti-development campaigns that reached the public psyche.

It is hard to know the specific social and economic strategies and goals of the ELF in Southern Ontario. It is obvious the tactics of night time sabotage became popular in latter anti-authoritarian actions against corporate and political targets around Guelph. Hopefully, the tactic of sabotage will not be a lost art on future movements aiming to destroy capitalist-democracy, and foster alternative ways to live.

In the end, climate change is still putting our world in a perilous situation, pollution and smog are killing record amounts of people in Southern Ontario every year, and capitalist development models are destroying the planet and eradicating most life on earth. We are living in very scary times and ultimately it is up to us as individuals and communities to create alternative movements to capitalist-democracy while constricting its development; our lives and the lives of the planet depend on it. The person or people who acted under the Earth Liberation banner in Southern Ontario are harbingers of this new world. Struggle is necessary to protect the earth. Even if they are destructive attacks, struggles to defend the planet are in the end an affirmation of life.

The Occupation Movement

BY: PJ LILLEY

The Spring 1997 “occupation movement” was triggered by an announcement in early February that the Ontario government was allowing campuses to raise tuition by ten per cent at their “discretion.” Fed up with the increasing inaccessibility of education, groups of student activists at nine Ontario universities, one Quebec university and two British Columbia universities occupied the presidential offices on their campuses. The first occupation took place on February 10th 1997, when twenty University of Toronto students marched into their President’s suite. Students at York occupied next, and were followed by students from the Guelph, Carleton, Queens, Windsor, McMaster, McGill, Laurentian and Nipissing campuses. Occupations also occurred at the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia against a massive tuition hike for international students and smaller ones for resident students.

University of Toronto students went in on February 10th knowing that their university was implementing the tuition increase for 1997/98 while it had an operating expense surplus of thirty million in 1996. Students were angry and enjoyed the support of a wide cross-section of campus groups, Toronto media and local unions as they occupied the offices for four days, until February 14th.

The day after University of Toronto began occupying, forty students at York University took over their President’s office. By the next day they held all the

executive suites, all the Vice-Presidents’ offices, and had mobilized 500 students in a rally outside. Besides the Common Front demands for a tuition and fee freeze, combined with demands for better quality and diversity of education, York students were also demanding the reinstatement of Prof. Nancy Nichol, and the repeal of the President’s ability to unilaterally overturn tenure. Mann had rejected Nichol’s tenure for her “subversive” views on feminism and class, tied to her status as an open lesbian on campus.

Students stayed until Sunday, February 16th, when the twenty-two students remaining were faced with fifteen York security officers backed up by ten Metro police and threatened with breaking University regulations and with criminal trespassing charges. The same week, students at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute sent forty blocks of ice to their President’s office. The ice represented the forty percent tuition increase over three years, and was a call from the Ryerson Student Union to “freeze” tuition.

Guelph students occupied their presidential offices for seven days on February 13th, making it the longest occupation and the only one in which students physically barricaded themselves inside the offices. Carleton University students occupied on February 20th, presenting a complex set of demands. Students won the creation of a Joint Advisory Committee on government-community affairs, complete with significant student representation and some action on increasing subsidized daycare spaces.

On Wednesday February 26th, Queen’s University students in Kingston, Ontario picked up the gauntlet. Twenty-three students, armed with a list of demands, a megaphone, and sleeping bags, descended upon Principal Bill Leggett’s office.

Support grew rapidly, and by Thursday afternoon over a thousand students were gathered outside Richardson Hall in protest of the ten percent tuition hike. Of these, 620 students filed through the University Senate meeting in silent support of a motion to freeze tuition. Silence was not enough, however, as Senate voted down the motion.

By March 5th, the demand for a tuition freeze had spread to McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. When 200 students arrived at administrative offices with a petition signed by 3000, they found themselves locked out, with security guarding the door to the President's office. They immediately began occupying a hallway in Gilmour Hall.

On March 6th, the University of Western Ontario in London – a traditional bastion of conservative academia – began a “virtual” occupation. In a polite and non-challenging manner, Western University Students' Council (USC) set up a web page, and called it a protest. President Paul Davenport responded by acknowledging the few hundred e-mails he received, and stating that he was proud of Western's “tradition of leadership in the area of advanced technology.”

Back on the physical ground, Laurentian University students, who had sent a ten-pound block of ice to their president on March 3rd, warmed things up on March 12th. About thirty-five students occupied the President's office demanding an immediate tuition freeze, one student representative per student association on the Board of Governors, and amnesty for all those occupying and demonstrating in support of these demands. A rally and press conference was held the following morning, after which the student associations left, and the occupation was maintained by the LU Coalition for Social Justice. In support, a second occupation site outside the eleventh floor administrative complex was set up later on Thursday.

University of Windsor began their occupation on Wednesday, March 19th when they took over the office of the Vice-President of Finance. Their fight was doubly significant, as they stood against tuition increases, but also in solidarity with striking CUPE workers on campus. On Monday, March 24th, protest spread as a group of students moved in to occupy the President's office. Amidst the now-standard call for financially accessible education, students told the administration to back off its demand that the already low-paid food and service workers of CUPE 1001 take concessions in wages and seniority rights.

In April, the movement was joined by McGill students in Montreal, Quebec. Although not under the Harris government, the Quebecois students face the same systematic undermining of accessible, public education.

A little late, but on Friday, April 5th, just after the Board of Governors at Nipissing University voted for the ten percent tuition increase, students occupied the President's office there. Nipissing is a small university in the hometown of Mike Harris, in North Bay, Ontario. The twenty “Angry Nipissing Students” held the offices for several days, gaining media attention, and garnering the support of many other students.

Meanwhile, throughout the winter, students in British Columbia had been fighting another battle over accessibility, this one on the issue of International Student fees. Inspired by the Ontario occupations, University of British Columbia students occupied their President's office and in solidarity they were joined by Victoria students who briefly occupied the offices of the Deputy Minister of Education.

*Originally printed in
When Campus Resists
Edited for Length*

Full version at www.guelphpeak.org

The Beginning of the

BY: TOM KEEFER

The Guelph occupation got underway in the offices and meeting rooms of several student organizations on Tuesday, February 11th, 1997. As news of the Monday occupation at the University of Toronto and the Tuesday York University occupation spread, CFRU 93.3 (the campus & community radio station), the Central Students Association (CSA), the Graduate Students Association (GSA) and the Guelph Socialists (GS) engaged in furtive discussions about the possibility of organizing some form of action. Over the course of the day, these discussions in various offices led to the decision that some sort of an organizing meeting was necessary, and it was scheduled for later that evening.

The news of a planning meeting for a potential occupation spread through activist circles rapidly, and that evening, approximately thirty students from the CSA, CFRU, GS, GSA, and a number of unaffiliated students met to discuss possible plans of action. The groups agreed to take action in solidarity with occupations at the University of Toronto and York University, and that it needed to occur soon, while the other two occupations continued. A number of logistical decisions made and tasks delegated (including the sending of a scouting party to the administrations part of the fourth floor), and it was resolved to meet again the following night.

Two police cruisers were staked out across the road for the length of this meeting. Uncertain of what to expect, the meeting dispersed through the fire escape of the building and into the alleyway behind.

Further occupation plans were made during the afternoon on Wednesday, with

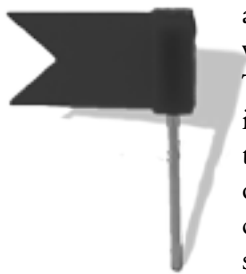
the inside group and the outside support group meeting separately to work out details for the occupation. At the general meeting, attendees debated on whether or not to wait until reading week vacation was over, and what to do if the action was anticipated by administration and campus police.

The meeting also heard logistical reports from the scouts relating to accessibility of the administrative offices and police activity on campus.

The problem with deciding what to do about the question of police presence was that the issue was largely out of the gathering control. The presence of police, their number, and their relatives size and aggressiveness were all questions to which the gathering could not possibly know the answer. Alternative plans as to what the occupation crew could do if stopped at the door were considered, but given the limited timeline to discuss it, the number of possible scenarios and the varying levels of safety/vulnerability that members of the group felt, the question remained unresolved.

QUESTIONS OF LOGISTICS

After breaking down again into inside and outside committees to go over approaches to these questions, the Wednesday evening meeting determined the following: the occupiers were to meet in the offices of the CSA at 6:30 Thursday morning as soon as the University Centre was unlocked (by electronic timer). Iron bars, duct tape, heavy chains, bicycle U-locks and lengths of rope had been collected and would be used once inside, to secure the doors of the complex. Scouts had obtained floor plans of the offices and with the assistance of their reconnaissance it was ascertained that there were four doors that the inside group needed to lock up, two of which were fire doors with



See pages 40 and 41 for locations mentioned in this article on a sweet pull-out map of Guelph.

Occupation

push bars, the other two of which were swinging double doors.

Occupation Hardware Supply List

- rope
- chains
- bucket
- scissors
- 2 iron pipes (4 ft. each)
- knives (for peanut butter &c.)
- screwdriver
- keys
- 6v adaptor
- bike locks
- swiss army knife

Four teams of two were assigned to be lockers at each of the four sets of doors of the complex. Upon entry the lockers were to make a beeline for the doors they had been assigned and to accomplish the lock down of the complex before the administrators could react. Several other people were designated gentle persuaders, whose role was to usher out all administrators and secretaries from their offices and to inform them via both a prepared leaflet and verbally, that the occupation was a non-violent protest against tuition increases and that they were invited to leave the premises of the offices...

The offices which the occupation was targeting were the ones making up the administration presidential suite, home to President Mordechai Rozanski's office, as well as the less luxurious offices of half a dozen vice-presidents and the cubicles of a small army of secretaries and functionaries

Entrance to the administration side of the fourth floor is secured with locked doors only unlocked during office hours. The doors are unlocked by the first administrator to arrive at work. Key to the success of the occupation plan was making

sure that the offices were comparatively empty (i.e. before most people arrived for work), a speedy lockdown, and the immediate ushering out of all people who operated out of those offices.

GETTING INTO THE OFFICES

At 6:30 Thursday morning as the doors to the UC were unlocked, occupiers and outside support straggled into the CSA from residence rooms, downtown apartments and student club offices in which people had slept overnight. Since the Wednesday night planning meeting had gone extremely late, this involved coordinating wake-up calls to ensure that the occupiers and essential outside people arrived on time. Coming in with backpacks full of food and blanket rolls tied to knapsacks, the two dozen assembled students looked more like members of the outdoors club on a nature hike than students planning a takeover of the administration offices.

Leaflet handed to Office staff:

This is a peaceful protest. In solidarity with students at the University of Toronto and York University, and in opposition to the proposed ten percent discretionary tuition increase, we are occupying the Presidential offices. This occupation is indefinite in duration, and we believe that it is in your best interests to vacate the premises. If you do not leave, please understand that you are consenting to stay and that you are free to leave at anytime.

Gathered together as dawn broke, members of the group exchanged hugs and high-fives and prepared for the word that the main doors to the fourth floor were open. Unfortunately for the nerves of all concerned, the doors were not opened as early as expected. There followed for the next hour and a half a very tense period of time, as scouts were repeatedly sent out to check to see if the administration had opened up the doors to the fourth floor yet. After a couple of false starts and some periods of very high tension, the word came shortly after 8:00 am that the

GUELPH:

A History of Resistance





LEGEND

1. GUELPH CORRECTIONAL CENTRE, SEE PAGE 3
2. JOHN GALT STATUE, SEE PAGE 8
3. TWO RIVERS COMMUNITY GARDEN, SEE PAGE 23
4. UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH CAMPUS, SEE PAGE 38
5. ITT STRIKE, SEE PAGE 46

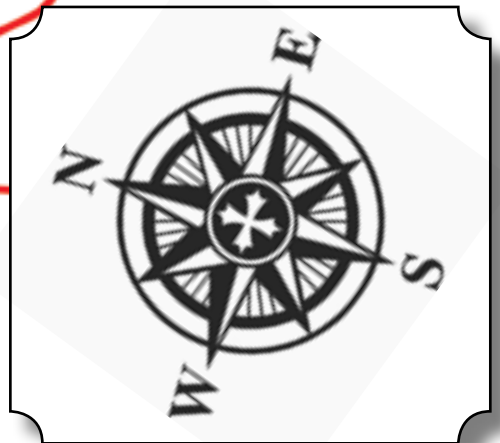
LOCATIONS
MENTIONED IN 'WHERE
TO GROW FROM
HERE?' SEE PAGE 10

RIVERS
ROADS

CLAIR RD

2008 BLOCKADE

TO ABERFOYLE



WATSON RD

WOOD SQUAT

VICTORIA RD

COLLEGE RD

STONE RD

GORDON ST

ZELLERS

KORTRIGHT RD W

ARKELL RD

HANLON PARKWAY

HANLON CREEK
BUSINESS PARK

LAIRD RD

TO CAMBRIDGE

stairwell entrance was indeed open, and in desperate haste the occupation crew lined up in a column with lockers at the front, gentle persuaders in the middle and outside support at the back. Once lined up in single file the group burst out of the CSA doors, proceeded down the hall and up into the stairwell, and headed to the fourth floor.

Demands from the first Occupation press release

Over the past week, students in at least 2 Ontario universities have occupied their presidents office to protest the likelihood of yet another tuition increase of ten percent. This morning, students at the University of Guelph have done the same. We can no longer stand aside as our administrators sell out our education to the political whims of the leaders of this province. We demand:

1.A meeting with senior administration and members of the board of governors to discuss tuition levels at the University of Guelph.

2.A complete tuition freeze for 1997/98.

3.That President Rozanski publicly [sic] denounce the ten percent discretionary tuition increase imposed by the provincial government at a press conference.

4.Amnesty for all individuals and groups involved in the actions necessary to bring the matter of tuition levels to public attention.

Within seconds the lockers had the doors locked shut and the gentle persuaders had the main group of secretaries and administrators corralled. Vice President Nancy Sullivan and a few of her cronies retreated to her office after a brief confrontation and began making phone calls, presumably to the campus police. A couple of gentle persuaders went into her office and disconnected her

handset and all others within the vicinity. Caught by surprise and with their means of communication cut off, Sullivan and the other administrators decided to leave and were escorted out through a secured fire door. Students were now in complete control of the administration presidential complex.

Minutes later, the downstairs group sent out a press release and list of demands. From the beginning of the seven day Guelph occupation, the external support group remained key in publicizing the situation and in rallying support for the direct action of the inside group.

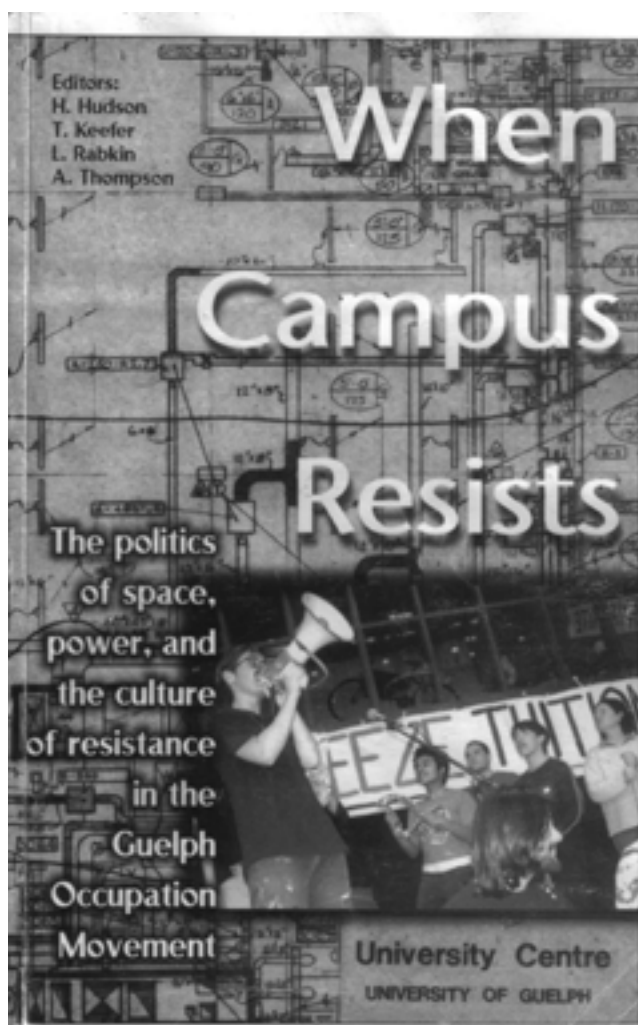
A few minutes after the last administrator was escorted out, the inside group surveyed its new quarters, grinning from ear to ear. Knapsacks were dropped to the floor, and filing cabinets were pushed in front of the front doors to provide a vantage point from which to look out through the glass. Twenty minutes or so after the doors were secured, President Rozanski showed up at the main doors to the office demanding to be let in. His argumentation went something like this: I understand that you in my offices protesting the proposed tuition increase and I agree with you that this is a serious issue affecting all aspects of this institution. I want to engage in a dialogue with you, but you must understand that you will have to vacate the premises before your demands can be discussed.

With his initial approach not producing any results, Rozanski tried another tactic. After consulting with the campus police officers who had been called to the door, Rozanski suggested that it would be best if the occupiers let a police officer into the offices to make sure that nothing was getting broken or stolen. He added that a number of the administrators needed to get their personal effects and that he himself needed to get the speech he had prepared for convocation. There was some discussion on the inside about the feasibility of allowing one administrator into gather their stuff, but it was resolved

that no police would be let in whatsoever, and that if the administration needed their stuff, they could pass us the keys to their individual offices (which were all locked) and that the inside group could get whatever was needed for them.

Rozanski and co. rejected this proposal. As it sunk in that the students weren't going to be leaving or unlocking his offices until their demands were addressed, Rozanski began to get upset, and began taking his frustrations out upon the two people who had been picked as outside police liaisons. There was some discussion between the two students outside and the inside group, but as no resolution to the situation was reached, Rozanski's temper took a turn for the worse. At this point Rozanski was visibly upset and yelling at all within range. A police officer with a pair of wire snippers appeared, but unable to reach, much less to cut through the bike locks, duct tape, chains and filing cabinets holding the door shut, soon desisted and waited for further backup.

Rozanski informed the students outside that he had called the Guelph Fire Department and that they would cut down the doors if not immediately opened. At around 9:15 am a crew of firefighters armed with axes and a collection of door splitting gear gathered in front of the main door. As Rozanski argued that the doors needed to be cut down for the protection of those on the inside in case of fire, the occupiers threatened to tie themselves to any door that was being smashed down. Taking stock of the situation, the fire department informed Rozanski that they did not consider the situation a fire risk and would not cut down the door unless there was in fact a fire. The fire department left. Rozanski, still without his speech, went off to give one of his worst convocation addresses in recent history, and with the initial crisis over, the occupiers took stock of the situation, settled down to life on the inside, and began their first meeting of the occupation.



Originally Printed in When Campus Resists
Full Version online www.guelphpeak.org

REPRINT DETAILS:
When Campus Resists: *The Politics of Space, Power and the Culture of Resistance in Guelph Occupation Movement*
Publisher: Occupation Press (September 1997)

ISBN 0-9682704-0-9
1 Copy at Guelph Public Library Call Number: 371.81 WHE
1 Copy at University of Guelph Call Number: LE3.G7 W43
2 Copies at OPIRG Guelph Call Number: LE3.G7 W43 1997

Bricks & Slingshots



International Ladies Garment Workers Strike

BY DANIELLE GEHL

Guelph's garment workers strike of 1934 is one of many instances of growing social unrest and emerging class solidarity in labour movements of the Great Depression. In the spring of that year, the Popular and Superior Cloak companies locked 200 unionized workers out of their Toronto factories and moved operations to Guelph, where they were able to produce their luxury women's coats at lower costs by hiring non-union workers. Although the Mayor of Guelph admitted negotiating with the company to move its operations to revive Guelph's ailing textile industry, both the city and the Popular and Superior Cloak companies maintained that no union agreements were broken in doing so. Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union disagreed, and by August 1934, mounting tensions between the union and the manufacturers brought organized labour struggle to Guelph for the first time.

Picketing union members had been lining the sidewalks outside the cloak

factories on Baker Street for several weeks before an influx of over 200 strikers from Toronto clashed with employees entering the plant to go to work on the morning of August 21st. Supporters and curious onlookers crowded the street as strikers threw bricks and stones at the factories, setting a precedent for more than a week

**“Baker street is
mecca for huge
crowd as strike is
continued.”**

- Guelph Mercury
July 1934

of impassioned striking that included numerous scuffles with factory employees and Guelph police. Over the course of that week, car and factory windows were smashed, Guelph's first tear gas bomb was deployed, and two men were committed to hospital with head

injuries from thrown bricks.

Initially overwhelmed by the number of strikers flooding the streets on a daily basis, the Guelph police force soon augmented their numbers with officers and tear gas from Kitchener and by hiring temporary police who worked for a fixed wage on a day-to-day basis, known as “specials.” The city police and the Popular and Superior Cloak companies put up a united front, as private security employed by the companies were outfitted with

Guelph police uniforms. The Superior Cloak Company was apparently especially eager to dissuade the union: Samuel Posluns, a company official, was charged with discharging a loaded revolver with intent to injure. Strikers, however, held their own, facing down fire hoses with stones and bottles for nearly an hour during an altercation on August 25th that left almost every police officer, according to the Guelph Mercury, “more or less bruised.”

The Mercury’s coverage of the garment strike indicates that many Guelph residents were sympathetic if not supportive of the workers’ struggle, even turning down badly needed jobs to avoid working with police. On August 27th, the Mercury reported that “No more [special police] can be hired. Guelph men apparently don’t want the job, despite the inducement of five dollars a day.” Police also noted that residents of Guelph joined the strikers in hurling stones and bricks at them during the height of one street conflict. Local kids took the opportunity to get in on the strike action, too: “A number of boys were noticed in the roof of a building near the plant and the lads were all armed with catapults, with which they were briskly firing away at the windows of the factory.”

During tense negotiations between the cloak companies, the City of Guelph, and the union that lasted for almost a week, the Popular Cloak Company moved to unionize its employees and the Superior Cloak Company agreed to relocate its operation back to Toronto. These gains represented a tenuous victory for labour movements of the time, which were often violently suppressed in brutal raids or criminalized en masse, as in the Red Scare. The tactics that police, media, and government bodies used to discount and delegitimize radical labour movements of the 1930s are strikingly similar to the rhetoric and methods used to undermine and criminalize social movements today. The employment of special security

forces, augmented police forces, violent repression, and appeals to patriotism and the sanctity of private property (in a statement to the media, Guelph mayor R. Beverly Robson called the strikers “Un-British,” claiming that they were “hoodlums [who] beat people up on the street,”) that characterized Guelph’s garment workers’ strike all have their parallels in state response to last years resistance to the Olympics spectacle and the G20 convergence. The movement that gave us the eight-hour day and one of the first models for organized class war continues to inspire struggle today.

AVERAGE CLOAK COMPANY WAGES SHOWN TO RANGE FROM \$7 TO \$30													
<p>AVERAGE wages ranging from \$7 weekly for inexperienced female help to \$30.08 for experienced males were paid by the Superior Cloak Company in one week of operation, according to a statement prepared by H. C. Allen, at the request of the Board of Trade.</p> <p>The statement of wages was presented at the meeting held last night in the Ryan auditorium, and the condensed analysis showing all of the averages is given as follows:</p> <p>"At the request of the Board of Trade of the City of Guelph, I have made an analysis of the pay roll of the Superior Cloak Co. Ltd., and certify to the correctness of the attached detail statement covering one week of operation.</p> <p>"From this statement I have condensed the figures to show the classification as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Adult male, experienced, average wage</td><td>\$30.08</td></tr> <tr> <td>Adult female, experienced, average wage</td><td>17.08</td></tr> <tr> <td>Adult male, inexperienced, average wage</td><td>10.61</td></tr> <tr> <td>Adult female, inexperienced, average wage</td><td>9.15</td></tr> <tr> <td>Undr 21, male, experienced, average wage</td><td>20.53</td></tr> <tr> <td>Under 18, female, inexperienced, average wage</td><td>7.00</td></tr> </table> <p>"In all cases, at least, the minimum wage rate was paid.</p> <p>"(signed) H. C. ALLEN, "Public Accountant."</p>		Adult male, experienced, average wage	\$30.08	Adult female, experienced, average wage	17.08	Adult male, inexperienced, average wage	10.61	Adult female, inexperienced, average wage	9.15	Undr 21, male, experienced, average wage	20.53	Under 18, female, inexperienced, average wage	7.00
Adult male, experienced, average wage	\$30.08												
Adult female, experienced, average wage	17.08												
Adult male, inexperienced, average wage	10.61												
Adult female, inexperienced, average wage	9.15												
Undr 21, male, experienced, average wage	20.53												
Under 18, female, inexperienced, average wage	7.00												

Average wages of workers at the Cloak Company as Publish by the Guelph Mercury in 1934.



ILLUSTRATION: LYNND WARD

THE GUELPH 1974 STRIKES AT ITT AND UNION GAS

by ALIVE Collective

INTRODUCTION

In 1974, the year before the War Measures Act was called by Prime Minister Trudeau, the City of Guelph saw much labour unrest marked by a significant number of strike struggles. Among these were strikes launched at the two well-known Guelph companies, International Telephone and Telecommunications Co. (ITT) and Union Gas Co.

These two strikes and all the others had much in common. Workers were fighting to keep the bread on the table. With inflation running high, workers' real wages were rapidly decreasing. Workers were forced to strike for an increase in wages. In taking these defensive measures, workers at ITT and Union Gas found that they also had to oppose the class conciliatory nature of their union leadership.

Workers at ITT's two plants in Guelph on Dawson road and Royal road went out on legal strike on January 3rd, 1974.

The 350 members of Local 6340 of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) stayed out until February 24th – a total of six and a half weeks.

The ITT workers were up against a notoriously anti-labour U.S. multinational corporation based in New York. The ITT plants in Guelph produce postal mechanization, and instruments, controls and equipment used in the telecommunications field. When the previous contract expired on November 1, 1973, ITT workers made a firm resolve to close the gap between wages paid for jobs that were usually assigned to women and those jobs usually performed by men. This was a significant demand as eighty percent of the Guelph ITT workforce were women. Negotiations broke down in mid December when the workers rejected a package deal including a \$0.95/h increase in wages and benefits over the span of a three-year contract.

See pages 40 and 41 for locations mentioned in this article on a sweet pull-out map of Guelph.

ITT PLANNED STRIKE

Clearly, it was the ITT management who forced the strike by refusing to bargain in good faith. Steelworkers official Gerry Reid said that during early bargaining sessions, “tough problems were easily resolved. During the later stages, things really toughened up.” The company also pulled a provocative move just one week before the strike. ITT workers had worked extra days to earn an uninterrupted Christmas-New Years break on the understanding that the company would pay workers for both the Christmas and New Years statutory holidays. On the afternoon before the holiday break, the Company went back on their word and made a no-pay decision. Workers suspect that ITT wanted them to stage a walkout.

Workers at ITT knew that the company was falling behind schedule in meeting the 87 million dollar contract with the post office to provide postal code equipment. Local 6340 claimed that ITT was short of supplies and needed extra time to stock up on its depleted parts inventory. The company later confirmed this in a statement made by a management person, called Cameron. “Of course, we have been short of supplies. We have had a desperate fight like all manufacturers have had to get supplies.” A clause in the postal code contract provided for the extension of the contract in the event that “*labour problems*” arose. For every day of work stoppage due to the strike the deadline for the contract moved back a day. By forcing the workers out on strike for six and a half weeks, ITT was buying time to stock up on supplies while avoiding the penalties for a late contract.

Further proof of the fact that the company had planned the strike came on January 10th when Local 6340 revealed a series of company documents stating the company’s tactics in the event of a strike, to the Guelph and District Labour Council. These documents were drawn up in October while the company was still negotiating with the union. A ten

page “Strike planning report” and a five page “Strike emergency plan” predicted that the strike would last from one to six weeks and detailed the costs and steps necessary to cause the least amount of “inconvenience” and production stoppage to the company for both a four and a six week strike. The documents outlined strategy that included getting managerial personnel to do production work. The source who leaked the documents to the union said that in another document the company planned to not speak to Local 6340 until four weeks after the strike began and then to only make an offer slightly better than the one rejected in December. The document stated that if this offer was rejected by the workers, ITT would then start hiring scabs.

The emergency plan document laid the ground work for a major security operation which would mobilize regular and additional personnel to protect, and to keep strikers off company property. The reports suggestions included the use of movie cameras to record the activities of the strikers.

The union responded to these leaked documents by making them public and issuing a letter to the 130 non-striking ITT administration staff as they arrived at work on January 11th. The letter warned the employees of the role ITT had mapped out for them and asked them to,

“judge for yourselves if ITT approaches negotiations in an honourable, forthright manner; judge for yourselves, whether or not ITT looks upon its employees as anything other than pawns in their corporate game of ruthless maximization of profits.”

As the strike progressed, practical evidence came up to prove that the company plan was being enacted. Around-the-clock picket lines were set up outside both of the plants at 7:00 a.m. on January 3rd. About 100 picketers at the Dawson road plant and a lesser number at the Royal road plant showed up in firm and enthusiastic spirits despite the bitter cold

of the morning. Management personnel had come to work early — as was evident from the twenty-odd cars in the Dawson road parking lot. Two management people arrived for work later on in the morning but the workers managed to persuade one of them to take the day off. Workers carried placards reading “No turkey, no workey.” This referred to the fact that the company had decided not to give workers a Christmas turkey in 1973 as they had done in 1972. The sign reflected the contempt felt by the workers for ITT and its high-handed moves.

The company put their security forces into action right away. By January 4th, three security guards, one on foot and two in cars, patrolled the plants. On the first night of the strike, some management people stayed in the plant all night. Soon, a movie camera was set up at the Dawson road plant.

As the company documents instructed, ITT management contacted the Guelph police force as soon as the strike began. On January 3rd, police were called to escort some construction workers through the Royal road picket lines. The construction workers didn’t want to cross the picket lines but did so on orders from their boss. On January 4th, police escorted a non-union truck driver through the picket lines. That same day Cliff St. Pierre, the personnel director took it upon himself to attempt to run down some of the strikers by rushing the picket lines with his car. Fortunately, none of the pickets were injured.

The strikers suspected that management was involved in doing production work when, on January 4th, there appeared to be twice as many cars in the company parking lot. Two management people were even sighted doing manual labour -shovelling snow off the plant’s sidewalk!

SOLD OUT

Instead of issuing a militant call to strengthen the picket line and stop all

production and shipping at ITT, the Steelworkers’ Union leadership took a sell-out position.

On January 10th, Reid stated that production had stopped at the ITT plants. Right from the beginning of the strike Reid said that workers would not try to prevent anyone from crossing picket lines. He said that they would use persuasion. Reid stated that the strikers were not calling on other workers to join them on the picket line -they could maintain the line themselves.

This statement proved to be false. The picketers did not succeed in shutting down operations at the Royal road plant. At the end of the strike the general manager of the Royal road plant stated:

“We’ve been successful in maintaining a reasonable position with no substantial loss in production. We’ve served the customers quite well.”

The ITT workers did gain some support in their struggle against this U.S. multinational giant. The strikers exchanged visits with workers at Grinnell Co. of Toronto — a wholly owned subsidiary of ITT who were also on strike at the time. There were also plant gate collections taken at Stelco of Hamilton and Imperial Tobacco Co. of Guelph. It is interesting that USWA, one of the wealthiest “international” unions around, spent time gathering money from other workers instead of stopping production and taking a militant bargaining position. This exposes the fact that fat U.S. Union bureaucrats don’t want to see their own huge salaries cut into by strike payments.

Exactly four weeks after the strike began, in accordance with the plans laid out in the leaked company documents, the first meeting between Local 6340 and company reps took place. Reid sold the workers out one more time by taking conciliatory posture. He said that the union was “proposing to moderate our position. We’re prepared to close the

gap.” But even this amount of kow-towing was not enough for the company and on January 29th, talks broke off again.

The very next night three “vandals” jumped out of a car and threw stones at ITT’s plate glass windows, breaking eight and causing about \$1000 worth of damage. Reid quickly released a statement: “I’m confident it wasn’t any of our people. They’ve shown admirable restraint in this strike.” He added that strikers had been instructed to “keep their cool” no matter what happened. This incident points to the contempt felt for both the company and the union leadership by some of the workers.

Reid, just full of bright ideas, asked Conservative MP Alf Hales to intervene in the ITT strike. When Hales declined, Reid suggested that the Guelph and District Labour Council write a letter to Hales expressing their displeasure.

Talks between management and labour resumed on February 22nd. That same day a tentative agreement was reached, which gave the workers a 1.30 dollars/an hour increase over three years. The contract also gave the workers increases in fringe benefits, health and pension plans, sick pay, vacations and life insurance retroactive to November, 1973. On February 24th, seventy-five per cent of the members of Local 6340 who voted accepted the offer. 225 out of 330 workers attended the meeting. Workers started returning to work that week. In all, about twelve workers quit during the strike.

The company was now prepared to resume full production on the postal code contract. ITT clearly made a conscious decision to force the burden of their mis-planning onto the backs of the people who create their vast wealth. The conciliatory position of the USWA union hacks objectively aided the company in their vile plot.

UNION GAS

The Union Gas Co. strike of 1974 was another struggle in which workers

expressed their discontent with their contempt for the company. Thirteen locals in Ontario, representing 1100 workers hit the bricks on February 6th and stayed out for five and a half months.

Union Gas, a gas distributing and servicing company, was represented by three unions; the International Chemical Workers (ICW), the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers (OCAW) and another small union. During the six years prior to 1974, the unions had succeeded in reducing the original number of thirty contracts down to five. In 1974, the unions were trying to reduce the number of contracts to four by having a single contract cover workers of both Union Gas and United Gas which serviced the Hamilton area. The unions knew that the workers’ bargaining power greatly increased when workers were united. In order that the negotiating team reflect the interests of the Union Gas employees, the unions proposed a bargaining committee numbering thirty. The company balked at this idea, but finally agreed to work with a union team of fourteen.

Union Gas employees were bargaining for non-monetary items. They wanted casual workers to be included under the new contract. The workers also wanted a decent maternity clause and a safety committee with union representatives on it. The company offered the workers more money to try to buy the non-monetary issues off the table. The workers responded with a resounding “No” and voted to hit the bricks.

On February 6th, seventy workers of Local 683 ICW, servicing the Guelph-Waterloo-Owen Sound area walked off their jobs and set up picket lines outside the Quebec St. offices. The unorganized clerical staff at the Guelph office went to work as usual. The first weekend of the strike set the tone for the remainder of the long strike. In those two days, there were eighteen separate gas shut offs in the Guelph area affecting residential, commercial and industrial interests.

Local 683 union president Barry Bowman immediately made the union's position clear: "The union is against gas shutoffs and is not responsible for them." The union later offered a 10,000 dollar reward for information leading to the conviction of anyone interfering with the flow of gas. The company jumped for joy when they heard this one because they were only offering a 500 dollar reward.

The workers, undaunted by the large rewards, continued to exert pressure on the company to settle the strike. However, this was contrary to the company's plans. During the strike, Union Gas was appearing before the Energy Board. The company hoped that by whining "labour problems" the board would rule in their favour and grant them permission to increase gas rates.

In fact, ICW released information that proved that Union Gas began preparations for the strike three months in advance. The union made public six documents which detailed plans for a strike including the hiring of scabs. In a document dated December 6th, 1973, Union Gas listed the contractors in the London area able to do work usually performed by Union Gas servicemen. Several crews were lined up ahead of time to take on the Union Gas work in the event of a strike. At least part of the company's plan backfired when workers for Waydom Construction of Hespeler refused to cross a picket line at a gas leak on March 16th.

Another company document detailed emergency measures to come into effect by January 17th, 1974, described by the company as "D Day" -- the day Union Gas predicted that workers would strike. This document outlined the means to ensure communication between the various offices and company security. Emphasis was placed on obtaining police cooperation.

Union Gas followed through on these plans as was evident from a number of incidents. However, this did not stifle the strikers' militant opposition to the company's tactics or the business union character of the union officials.

MILITANT OPPOSITION

Members of Local 683 ICW, set up 24-hour picket lines outside the Union Gas service centre on Surrey St. On February 17th, "vandals" broke three windows in this building. The Waterloo Union Gas service centre was also broken into the same

night. Management personnel arrived the next morning to find the windows wide open and all the tires of the vehicles housed in the building deflated.

On March 7th, 100 strikers attended a demonstration outside the Union Gas headquarters in Chatham which coincided with the 5:00 p.m. exit of non-union workers from the company. One worker arriving to begin the evening shift was pushed to the ground. Demonstrators threw rocks at cars attempting to leave the company parking lot. Most of the drivers were smart enough not to attempt to leave the premises. Police were called in and two Guelph area men were arrested on charges of creating a disturbance and assault.

On April 12th, near Sarnia, police approached a man attempting to turn off a valve and told him that he was under arrest. The Union Gas striker held the cops at bay with a shotgun and fled into the darkness. Police caught the man twelve hours later and charged him with the incident. Interestingly enough, the very next day a gas valve was shut off effecting 1300 customers in the Sarnia area. By May 24th, there had been seventy incidents of sabotage during the strike. After a transmission line near Chatham loosened and gas exploded, sending flames sixty feet

**“ON APRIL 12TH,
NEAR SARNIA, POLICE
APPROACHED A MAN
ATTEMPTING TO TURN OFF A
VALVE AND TOLD HIM THAT HE
WAS UNDER ARREST. THE UNION
GAS STRIKER HELD THE COPS AT
BAY WITH A SHOTGUN AND FLED
INTO THE DARKNESS.”**

into the air, Ontario Premier Bill Davis sent provincial police reinforcements to “protect” Union Gas pipelines.

The company was clearly revealing a total lack of concern for the safety of people by refusing to settle the strike. Shortly after the strike began, union officials warned Union Gas and the public that the company did not have enough servicemen (scab labour) to repair and maintain all the gas lines. ICW was worried that once the ground thawed, the earth would shift, resulting in many gas leaks and a potentially explosive situation.

Some strikers did their cause no good by offering to fix broken gas valves out of a sense of “duty”. In an incident in a Guelph laundromat, a striker helped fire officials locate a dryer that was leaking gas. On another occasion, union people showed up at the site of a sabotage effort which resulted in the blowing of a safety valve and asked if they could help fix it: They left after some management personnel showed up at the scene.

While some union hacks worked to serve the interests of the company, Union Gas was taking advantage of the strike. The union revealed that large sums of money were being collected as gas overpayments

during the strike. The company had been billing customers by an estimated amount. Bowman explained, “If each of Union Gas’ 375,000 customers overpays by even \$1, that’s \$375, 000 for the company to finance the strike.” Bowman suggested that the customers make token payments on their gas bills and tell Union Gas that they would receive the balance due after the strike was over — a tactic designed to throw havoc into the computer system.

Negotiation talks followed an on-again-off-again pattern. Finally, on July 22nd, Union Gas strikers voted 82 percent in favour of accepting a two-year contract, which gave them a 13,5 percent wage increase immediately and a increase of \$0.45/h on January 1th, 1975. Workers also won a cost-of-living allowance, a dental plan and better sick pay, disability benefits, vacations, overtime, shift premiums and other changes. The contract included a maternity clause that gave women a leave of absence of up to twenty-six weeks, and a provision for setting up a safety and health committee.

A Guelph union official made a special point of thanking the police for their cooperation. A true hack’s position — on his knees!

CONCLUSION

In both the ITT and Union Gas strikes, workers fought to prevent a further cut in their real wages. They also fought for clauses that would benefit their own situation.

In both strikes, workers expressed some discontent and frustration with their union leadership. In the ITT strike some “vandals” broke windows in the plant. In the Union Gas strike, numerous acts of sabotage on the gas lines were carried out. These incidents reflected the true seriousness of the strikers. When workers do not receive the kind of leadership they need in order to put forth their demands, they take action on their own behalf. Workers opted for class struggle — not class conciliation.

*republished from
Alive Magazine Weekly
Saturday, Sept. 22nd, 1979
Issue. 153*



**SHOW THEM
WHO'S BOSS:
NO ONE**



BURN PILE

All zines reviewed here can be found at the Arrow Archive zine library in UC 107, which is also the home to GRCGED (Guelph Resource Centre for Gender Empowerment and Diversity). To find these titles in the collection refer to the last line of the review (AA location)

which will tell you which box to look in to find the zine you are looking for. So stop by and say hello to the folks at GRCGED and check out the zine library. This installment of Burn Pile features zines made by, or about Guelph. Happy zine reading!



Queers Read This

Local queers re-designed an old classic. This version acknowledges its U.S. centric and out of date content but highlights that the info contained is still relevant. QRT is an anti-assimilation rant written in NYC at the height of the aids crisis in 1990. The authors define straightness as different from heterosexuality and say straightness is a force in the world and inside each of us that we must purge. A controversial but good read for everyone.

contact: fierce.n.fabulous1069@gmail.com

Half Size, 19 pages

AA Location: Queer

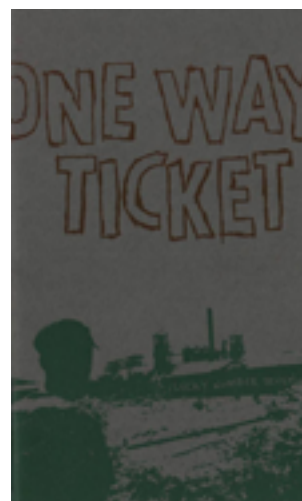
One Way Ticket: Lucky Number Seven

Beautiful two colour letter pressed cover. Time and care went into not only the writing of this zine but the appearance too. Design is slick and coherent to the content. Stories are honest reflections of the authors experiences moving to a new city. The stories in OWT read like listening to a friend tell travelling stories with enough literary body to make it a good read.

contact: 48 Alice St Guelph, Ontario

Quarter Size, 60 pages

AA Location: Per Zines



Burning Bridges

Anonymous collection of writings by anarchists about Southern Ontario. Articles are in depth and well researched but at times can be wordy and a little academic. Starting somewhere in the middle of the zine has a side bar filled with acts sabotage and resistance in chronological order, little bits of news, which are so easily over looked but highlighted here in BB. Layout is stimulating and consistent throughout. This a well thought out anarchist publication.

Full Size, 42 pages


AA Location: (A)

THAT'S GUELPH FOR YA!

History, Analysis, & Proposals for Insurgency



-moderately wild carrots



Ruin: a word describing what this city has gone through for years, and indeed what continues to greet it night after day. It whispers its promise of annihilation from the darkest suburban streets to the illuminated headquarters of the police department. The desire to take life back into our own hands is contagious. As history and experience has taught us, even within the context of what some perceive to be a “liberal, green and middle class” city, social acts of ruination can emerge; it’s possible if not inevitable. It with action, it always.

COMMUNITY A BASE FOR SOCIAL STRUGGLE

A community was once known for its close knit neighborhoods. The early 1900s marked periods of scarcity for the population, as a result of the actions of its rulers. In 1917-1918 a lot of churches and schools – institutions placed above the lives of common people - were forced to close. Let’s not kid ourselves; it was shit to live in Guelph. The nationalism that drove people to fight, as well as pay for the war out of loyalty to the British ended up leaving the population with anxiety, suffering, scarcity and dreadful personal losses. It’s no wonder that the years after the war were spent taking

care of each other with community groups funded and formed by ordinary people. The Great Depression told the same story, and all the government could scrape together was a relief system of food and clothing vouchers. The relief system served its purpose before, it appeased resentment towards the governing system while failing miserably at taking care of the population. Bootlegging and other criminal acts were the principle means of income for many people. Everyone was relying more and more on each other and the land base. They fished Shiners in the Speed River and picked mushrooms in the garbage dump. It is true that in times of crisis a lot of institutions lose power but never the police; they are instrumental in maintaining the normalized theft from people and their families. Who would freely put government above their lives and family, especially in times of scarcity? In those years involved a large mass of people sharing a common condition and struggling together to make it through the hard times; there was no help from the police who instead delivered punishment when people wouldn’t pay dues. This money was returned by the government to pay the police and used to criminalize people’s bootlegging and other illegal sources of income. This was a time of instability for those who manage society,

photo on previous page: Spray paint and paint bombs splatter the dome of a CSIS camera pointed down alice street. The camera was placed specifically to surveil residents of the Ward. The camera has now been taken down after being vandalized on numerous occasions.

when their power can only be validated by selecting those they like and excluding those who embarrass them. These situations, much like the wake of natural disasters, are thus occasions for other powers (such as our own) to gather and build up by taking the opposing side. In so doing they can build trust through shared experience and lay a sturdy foundation for social struggle.

IN THE FACE OF SCARCITY AND ALIENATION

To deal with the paucity of the Depression, companies would cut back wages to keep business profitable. It was common practice for bosses to quickly hire scabs when facing an organized and striking workforce. This usually happened after first securing an insurance policy against malicious damage and riot. This was the case at Superior Cloak when 225 workers blocked entry to the company buildings to demand shorter work days and wage increases. Scabs, strikebreakers and strikers entered into a series of violent clashes. In this ten-week dispute, two youths were charged with malicious damage and found guilty of the sabotage. Their sentence was six months. A week later the bosses relocated the factory under the name Popular Cloak Company. to Guelph, where they hired a new scab workforce. The Fur Workers Union in Guelph marched in solidarity with the locked-out Toronto workers on a mass-picket line. The unions sent daily convoys of people to the new location. Violence erupted between the scabs inside the building and the strikers outside. Guelph police used batons (which they obtained specifically to try to control this conflict) and tear gas to make arrests. Vehicles were destroyed and the Mayor, R.B. Robson, declared Martial Law. Authorities in Guelph were not prepared to deal with a large scale conflict like this one and asked Popular Cloak to leave town. The company and union managed to negotiate an agreement, but it turned out that the wage

increase was taking back too much profit from the boss' pockets and the factory was closed a couple weeks later, leaving a few hundred workers without a main source of income. The interruption of the flow of merchandise, the suspension of normality and of police control liberates a potential for self organization unthinkable under normal circumstances. Brutal repression alone could not dissolve the cohesive solidarity or contain the revolts of the 1930s and 40s wildcat strikes. In order to achieve this, alienation had to be built into the workplace, school, health-care industry, suburb, and even modern leftist organizations (unions and such), preserving the rigor mortis of rank-and-file order. Let's not forget that this is as much of an attack on community and self-organization as the blows dealt to us by police, bosses, courts and prison. As this city was further developed and new technologies seeped their way into daily life, a change occurred in the quality of social gatherings and relationships. Social life used to be vibrant, but with the introduction of the Internet into people's lives, the membership in and numbers of clubs dropped. Business was coordinated over the web and social interactions were caged behind the monitor of a computer. Gatherings were sucked deeper into the confines of monetary exchange in the temples of capital: strip-malls, restaurants, and Internet chat rooms. It's no wonder so many locals feel that things have changed. With further construction of housing developments to accommodate the invasion of the wealthy, cars, roads and suburbs now swallow most of the remaining space around the downtown core, atomizing the population inside their own private cells.

RESPONDING TO ISOLATION: TEARING SILENCE TO SHREDS

Although this atomization emanates from our environment itself, schools that serve the initial dose of domination. An institution like every other, this

obedience factory has always served the ruling order of the time. By the late 70s schools were deteriorating all over Guelph and no money was coming in to renovate and maintain their physical condition. This continued throughout the 80s as schools were either closed or “retrofitted.” Retrofitting is a disgusting process that involves windows filled with concrete blocks to save money on the heating bills. Parents got together and tried to stop the retrofitting, they attended board meetings to voice their opinions and signed petitions but had no success stopping the plan, so they reformed their organization to challenge “retrofitting excesses.” Windows were filled because the process went unchallenged. Sabotage was the answer from the youth. School buses had their seats repeatedly slashed and cameras were later placed on buses to minimize the attacks. It didn’t stop them. Acts of sabotage against school were not solely restricted to responses to conditions within school –they were and continue to be an attack on the condition itself: school. On October 13th 2008, three fourteen-year-olds took the time to smash out a sixteen windows at Willow Road School. In July 2008, another youth had the desire to set fire to the wood shop at John F. Ross Collegiate. The location contained enough flammable material to take the whole cathedral of servility with it. Since September, there have been fifty-one incidents of broken windows and seventeen of graffiti at several Upper Grand District School Board schools.

We are isolated in their institutions, yet it’s also true that we are not alone, and together we can at least return some blows.

A PRISON WITHIN A PRISON

The systems of atomization and submission (wage-slavery, school, welfare, etc) cannot survive without a system of repression. As much a defender of property as the fascist of the past, this wolf in

sheep’s clothing has been lurking amongst the population for years. On September 25th, 1911, Sir James Whitney, then Premier of Ontario, laid the cornerstone for the farmhouse of this slave-labour camp. Here the defectors of drudgery and saboteurs of the power structures would be rehabilitated back into a life of work and thrall. The Central Prison of Toronto was closed around this time and its prisoners sent off to become the first group fed to the Ontario Reformatory in Guelph. The prisoners were used to drain and cultivate the land, open quarries, erect a limekiln, build a bridge over the river, and lay a railway. The limekiln was used for concrete manufacture and, as with the quarries, development. The railway and bridge were the arteries used to move commodities to and from prison. By 1917 the prisoners were working wood, making brooms, tailoring, making shoes and lead based paint, and working the abattoir, laundry and woollen mill for the profit of the already rich. Two buyers from the abattoir made \$95 000 and \$475 000, respectively, in a five-year period of buying and reselling the slave labour. Guelph was developed by prison labour. Even the University relied on the cheap cattle raised at the prison for research and as teaching tools. Prisoners toiled daily to raise the cows that were mutilated in scientific research, paid for by the barons of the pharmaceutical and military industry. Apart from having the first gunner militia and army cadet corps in Kanada, the police were the first to have a motorcycle patrol. They were also the first to use two way radios in their cars and the first force to hook up to the province-wide police radio system. Today the technocrats have plans to develop a new Information and Technology Center for the whole province of Ontario –in Guelph. They also plan to continue developing vast expanses of forests for another so called “industrial park.” A commuter train is in the works to connect Guelph to the GO train system

(which is already being expanded at every station with another track), to facilitate and accelerate the gentrifying process that has already begun years ago. With a faster commute to Toronto, how many more Torontonians will occupy the south end sprawl (built where the forests and farm land used to be) just to fill the landfills and the pockets of the already rich developers? Like the prison and the progress it served, this technology center, the industrial parks and train lines serve the maintenance, intensification and reinforcement of the productive and repressive structures of power and their world of domination. The dominating order we want to destroy has roots everywhere and should be attacked everywhere. From train tracks to technology centers, let's tear the motherfucker down.

UNCONTROLLABILITY AND THE END OF AMNESTY

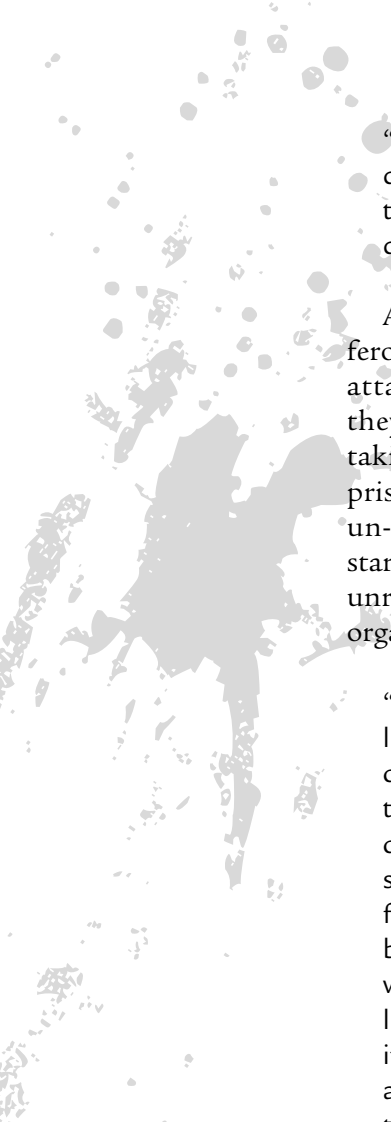
On January 17th, 1937 is when riots first broke out at the Reformatory. Heavy steel doors were used as battering rams by prisoners and one huge barracks was created by the destruction of all barriers such as doors and walls. Police were called in from Kitchener- Waterloo and veterans from the Canadian Legion and provincial traffic officers also were suited up to crush the revolt. The forces of law and order spent most of their efforts trying to keep the revolt contained within the jail. Anarchy was controlled and quiet reigned on the 18th, but damage was pegged at \$200 000. "We wanted butter" was one prisoner's explanation for the riot. They spent their days milking cows and had the capacity to make butter. The prisoners stocked the Reformatory with food, they



The Ontario
Reformatory
on York road
in Guelph.
Photo: e.war

had access to workshops and tools, they repaired buildings and machines, and made sure the steam engine on the railway was in good shape. The prisoners knew that their labour supplied everything of use as well as the reproduction of their incarceration. All they had to do was defeat the guards, destroy the prison and reclaim their autonomy. July 7th and 8th 1952 around 600 of the 931 prisoners took part in a full scale orgy of annihilation. Two guards were held hostage. A rat who was charging at the rebels – joining the side of the masters – was hurled into the burning kitchen. Hundreds of shots were fired (which they called warning shots), two guards were injured and a prisoner was hospitalized with a back injury. Damage was done by sledgehammers and crowbars which they secured from the store-room in the same section as the steam plant. But outside of perhaps fifty of them, they made no move to escape the smashed-out windows. The rebels, some of whom wore gas masks stolen from the store-room, were throwing tear gas canisters back onto the roof as quickly as they were being shot. Soon the roof was filled with police wielding rifles and Superintendent Gerald Wright told the rebels that they could either surrender or be shot dead. The revolt ended and prisoners were rounded up. They were kept under close supervision as teams of carpenters and plumbers set out to repair the wrecked prison. A few prisoners collapsed under the blistering sun's heat as they waited for the prison to be made operational. That night another riot nearly broke out as prisoners heard the cries of their comrades who were being "strapped" for their participation in the revolt. Guards were called in wielding axe handles to put down the tension. Fifty of these "ring leaders" were condescendingly whipped on the bum with coarse leather straps, "so thick they barely sagged", and then transferred to a prison in Nipissing. 121 "active leaders" were charged and the damages were estimated above one

million dollars. The authorities never understood this revolt. Its spontaneity and self-organization forced them to criminalize 121 of the most ferocious rebels as leaders of a situation that by its very nature could not be led or controlled. "There were no burning issues apparent among the inmates to ignite Saturday night's reign of destruction. Causes, according to inmates, seemed to depend on the individual's pet beef." The Premier of Ontario described the rioting as "a sheer act of vandalism....There is every opportunity for reform. They have fine surroundings and the best facilities for recreation and sport." As the late Premier said, they were given everything – everything but their freedom, and that will always be something we must take for ourselves. Nothing belonged to them and they knew it. When the plumbing of this institution was smashed to pieces all the media could conclude was that the rebels were crazy to destroy "their own plumbing and grill work." The real fools are those who would preserve any quantity of prison/technology/society. Once we show our intention to destroy things radically, we gain an immeasurable advantage. Why would the rebels try and escape prison in the precise moment they sought to completely annihilate it – what would they escape to when prison is everywhere? In 2001 the Reformatory was the central part of a debate amongst the city officials. After September 11th and the anti-terrorist legislation that followed, the Reformatory was scheduled to serve as a detention center for migrants and others who are deemed "illegal" by the managers of misery. The project was dropped because it was taking too long to implement, and with the construction of new prisons (and detention centers built closer to the Toronto airport), the reformatory's days were numbered. There's no use for a less secure reform prison when the myth of reformation will no longer be swallowed.



“Social System, Social War You don’t need barbed wire and bars to build a prison – you just need domination.” -325 Collective

Although these prison revolts were ferocious and uncompromising in their attack, we can’t deny the challenge they faced in escaping isolation and taking the struggle beyond the walls of prison. The reproducible character of un-compromised attack can create a starting point for the expression of social unrest and potential for expansive self-organization.

“Prison is everywhere, in all our life. We are constantly watched, controlled, identified, listened to... It’s the cop, the surveillance camera, court, judge, police station, and our entire reality of forced interactions. It’s the fear of being what we are, of saying what we feel, of doing what we would like to do... It’s the everyday misery; it stalks our memory, and is thus a permanent threat. Prison is also that isolate building where only the convicted and the hangmen do their time. It is the siege from where we cannot leave, the guards who control and torture us, it’s our bodies in the hands of the state. It’s the walls that enclose and hide us, that put us away for years... It is the place where everything is taken from us... Prison is, at the same time, an idea and a building –but always a reality.” - Some Anarchists

The summer of 2005 marked the beginning of an offensive that has yet to be subdued by police repression and recuperation. It’s begun to spread outwards with examples of solidarity that have laid the foundation for deep affinity-based friendship and personal interaction with rebels from other territories. Let us

insure this new wind carries with it the expansive characteristics of a hurricane.

June 2005 was the first recent response in Guelph to the false solutions of the environmental movement and its green magnates. The flaming garbage can that crashed through the lobby of the Zellers on Stone road cried out the response with its sublime voice of flame and smoke: No! That whole summer resulted in seven reported acts of sabotage to construction equipment.

These attacks began to spread as of the 14th of July, when sabotage was reported at the City- Place development in Toronto. Three days later there was sabotage on two development sites in Brantford. The next day arsonists destroyed a house at a development in Guelph with fire. The following day three more construction sites in Brantford were sabotaged. July 21st - 24th was a spree of sabotage in Guelph and on August third another house at a development site was kissed with flames, burning themselves out after consuming the second floor. To the north, in the town of Caledon, the mayor’s husband has been threatened by small mobs over the mayor’s development plans, and was even dealt a swift beating in the backyard of their home; a tactic that has been used by Six Nations’ warriors when dealing with developer Sam Gulatieri in their own territory. Guelph and its surrounding towns have become laboratories of subversion where progress and social control meet experimentation and creativity in struggle.

EXPANDING THE TARGETS? EXPANDING ANARCHY!

Attacks on progress have not kept their focus on development and developers. In 2007 attacks began to spread outwards against the police who maintain and defend the existing social order, twenty cop cars are reported to have been defaced by spray paint at the police headquarters downtown. Then in May as locals, activists, and anarchists came together to disrupt

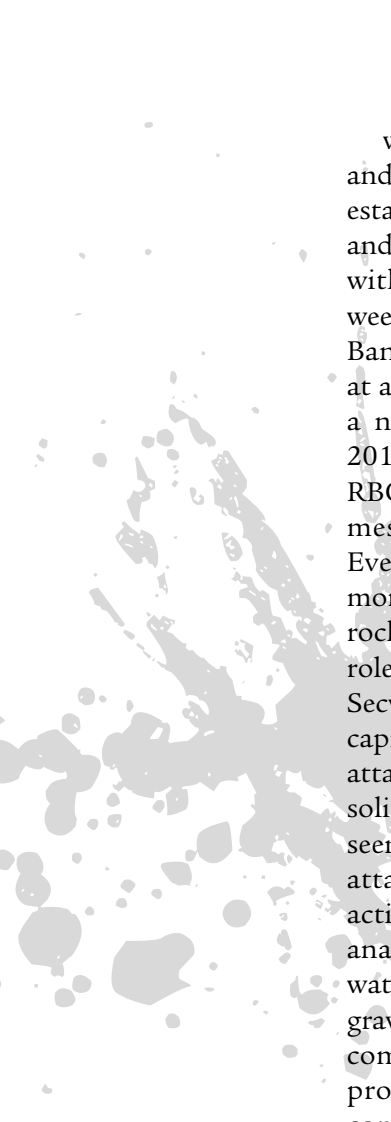
the annual police ball and the police headquarters had its cruisers attacked with paint bombs. In December, a local graffiti artist also took advantage of all these hits on the police station to express some personal contempt; *NRG* was tagged to the walls of the downtown headquarters twice in one month. August 5th, 2008 revealed us a glimpse of something new. We sometimes hear about the odd assault on a cop attempting to arrest someone but this was different. Instead it was a collective attack on a pig conducting an arrest. August 2007 also marked the beginning of attacks against the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP). The corporate head office of Linamar had its windows smashed, paint scrawled on walls and the locks on its doors glued shut. Linamar is responsible for the deaths and mutilations of countless in workplace “incidents”. Meanwhile its CEO supports NAFTA and has a major role in the dehumanizing agenda of the SPP. Its growth is a result of the growth of Capital and adds to the State’s budget, which is being used for among other things, counter-insurgency, the normalization of repression and to fund State murder and corporate pillaging in Afghanistan, Haiti and the unceded territories of sovereign native peoples.” These attacks were striving to become more personal and more expansive when on November 8th the downtown water tower was decorated with an unwelcome message to the Nestle Waters and Linamar corporations. *Linamar-Nestle Get Out of Guelph* was the announcement of a new campaign to link the bulk water exports proposed in the SPP to the local water thieves Nestle Waters. The following night Frank Hassenfratz, the Chief of the Board and founder of Linamar, had the gates to his house locked with a chain and his house decorated with graffiti. It didn’t stop there as the downtown Bell Canada building (also an SPP member) continues to be visited with rage. Then on December 12th

two of its vans were completely annihilated with fire on the two year anniversary of the *Green Scare* arrests, as a show of solidarity with the non-cooperating defendants and native warriors who were also facing charges at the time. Also, the *Free Albert Douglas* graffiti showing up around southern Ontario at this time was another testament to the growing tension around the criminalization of struggles for autonomy. Then in February three Linamar offices had their locks glued, and were painted and covered



Entering Guelph city hall to deliver eviction notice.

PHOTO: FTP



with posters denouncing their existence and that of Nestlé Waters. A Re/Max real estate office was also attacked with paint and rocks on the same night in solidarity with the Secwepmec land defenders. A week later a banner was dropped from a Bank of Montreal during a media event at a Royal Bank of Canada (RBC). While a native warrior was denouncing the 2010 Winter Olympics and its sponsor RBC, the banner dropped displayed its message: Capitalism is Colonization: Every Bank is a Colonizer. The next morning a Delta Hotel was attacked with rocks, on it's opening day, because of its role in gentrifying Guelph and colonizing Secwepmec territory to expand the anti-capitalist struggle through autonomous attacks laid a starting point for ongoing solidarity with native struggle but locally seems limited to just what it is: isolated attacks. The anti-SPP and anti-Nestle actions are trying to connect –through analysis and decentralized action- every water thief in Guelph (like golf courses, gravel pits, slaughter houses, etc) with the commodification intrinsic to capitalist progress. But in actuality they aren't contributing to this expansion because they aren't extending the means of attack and propaganda beyond the limited methods used. We will not be capable of broadening the struggle in a social manner without engaging socially (and face to face) with locals who are also fighting progress. The time is long overdue for those seeking a break with normality to meet face to face with each other and organize a resistance together.

SPACE AND TIME

Territories of space that reproduce the normal functioning of society is saturated and defined by the social relationships that build it –the dominant social relations. Rather than reproduce the mediocre life that is offered to us, we prefer to exist in permanent conflict with it. If we are to prolong and extend the ruptures we

desire to create with this system, then we need the spaces around us to express these ruptures and we need to maintain their transformation –as something useful for us and our project of total negation. The transformation of our relationship with a space is inseparable from the transformation of the space itself. There are endless ways to transform a space in the process of recreating our lives. What's important is how we transform them (by/for ourselves), and in so doing, alter our affinity towards our environment and within it. The recent occupation of the old Reformatory lands has brought people together who never before shared projects in common. The space had been occupied by a variety of people in the past, but around mid April 2008 a group of anarchists began spending time in the area. The space is used at times as a home as well as a social space, to meet and discuss ideas and projects with others. Wild foods and medicines are used as part of a process of learning to live n our own terms – together with the land. The space is owned by the city and is zoned as park land. It's been another useful attack on the world of property and law. As soon as cement foundations were poured for a winter shelter, the policand city officials arrived and threatened to evict the squatters from their home and from the life they were creating for themselves. Rather than see the defence of their home as something limited to the space itself, they chose to move outwards from it to attack the social order that threatens it. The only way to defend ourselves is to annihilate that which endangers us. On the notified day of eviction they left the space and stormed the police headquarters and City Hall posting their own eviction notices all over the lobbies. Posters stated they soon intended to begin the last evictions the city would ever see: the eviction of the structures that maintain a system of property and law.

YOU'RE THE WEAPON: ARM YOURSELF!

Since the onset of the resistance to the city and police's plan to displace people yet again, we've seen

a number of events that continue to intensify as the situation progresses. Police show up regularly to the quarries to harass people with interrogations, ID checks, often armed with rifles with semi-automatic fire. Terrorizing people in many ways such as profile bikes and footprints and watching people's houses and follow them in cars. We will likely see more and more of each other under investigation, facing trial or spending time in prison. Because in the face of a system that seems unassailable we have chosen action over resignation. It's very easy in situations of intensifying repression to simply retreat, to let things blow over, or worse, to distance ourselves from those facing prison or from actions that frighten us. This response is a major victory for the state. The challenge we face is that of developing the strength within ourselves to act according to our individual disposition and personal inclinations against the state and its systems of repression, while also learning to coordinate these actions without compromising ourselves. After the September 2008 arson of a prisoner transport van at the police headquarters, people invested in one way or another with the squat spent their time refuting the claims of the police and media [in letters to the editors of the Mercury newspaper]. Of course it's slanderous, but someone involved with the squat could have done it, just like anyone else. That is the beauty of sabotage. So why were they acting so surprised? We read about these things in the news all the time and feel it in our bodies when the police stare us down. An eighteen year old is shot dead by cops in Montreal then riots ensue. A fifteen year old in Athens is murdered by police on December 6th 2008, and then unrest explodes with seemingly no end in

sight. This September in Guelph, police were fought on three occasions while making arrests at the bars downtown. The poor who live downtown in Guelph get harassed by police all the time. Of course the people involved with the squat have reason to attack the police, but that's just another handful of individuals on an already colossal list of people who perhaps ought to lay into the police more often. If all these people have a reason to defy the police then why do some act surprised when it finally happens? It's nothing new, It's really not surprising; it's to be expected. The real challenge we have is not to rid some names of slander but to develop solidarity that seeks to make attack something that is expected in more places, more often and on diverse structures of power; particularly when repression is coming down on our comrades in the social war. A call for solidarity was released on August 22nd by some wood-squatters after the attack made against them by city officials and police. We are continually surprised to hear about acts of solidarity coming from near and far, Guelph to California and Washington State. Guelph on August 24th a McDonald's was attacked. the attacker(s) "cemented shut the pipes, disabling the toilet in the bathroom stall." They state that they "did this after the Guelph Wood Squat received a notice of eviction" and because they were inspired by a similar action against a McDonald's in Victoria, which was taken against the 2010 Olympics and its sponsor McDonald's. The action in Santa Cruz, California was done on August 25th "in solidarity with the people living at the 'wood squat' of Guelph. Four windows and a glass door of the sales office of 2030 North Pacific [condo] were shattered with a hammer." They go on to say that "Development is as good a euphemism as any for capitalism's process of transforming open spaces and anything with potential for life into dead commodities." In Tacoma, WA, on

September 27th, two billboards for condo developments were vandalized with paint and two condos were themselves attacked with paint bombs, one of which had some windows broken. “The condo that was attacked is merely another condo, designed to pull in wealthy residents, raise property values, push fascist ideals of architectural beauty and further gentrify Tacoma. All condos are subject to attack. The system is crashing and we are the cracks... We are in a new world and there isn’t time for bullshit. Do whatever you can and do it quickly. Stop spectating. Join in. This action is in solidarity with those fighting for their homes in Guelph, the RNC 8...” A more recent example of solidarity is what the papers called a “protest” on the Hanlon Parkway in Guelph. This action consisted of burning barricades on the Hanlon and on an overpass of the Goderich-Exeter Railway, which crosses the Hanlon and is also used by VIA Rail. As morning rush-hour traffic was stopped a banner was dropped from the overpass that read “Repression in Six

Nations, Repression at Home! Solidarity!” The action sought to disrupt freight traffic to Linamar and happened after the police raided the ex-Hampton Inn (the land had been reclaimed by members of Six Nations) hotel development site and arrested three people. It was also after the squatters were dealt a lot of the police repression mentioned above. Similar actions took place back in April when the Mohawks of Tyendinaga were surrounded by the OPP Emergency Response Team. The OPP raided the reclaimed quarry site, drew their guns, and arrested four people before being fought back. There was a call for solidarity that was made and people all over the place responded. Highway 6 was blocked by warriors of Six Nations. In Vancouver people got together to block Clarke street for three hours; this is a major trade route and the blockade managed to backup traffic to the US border. In Guelph the Hanlon was blocked at night by a flaming barricade and about twenty people with a banner for fourty-five minutes. Twelve tires were

Poured concert foundation for a straw bale which lead to the eviction of the wood squat.

PHOTO: FTP



slashed on Bell Canada vans at the Bell building downtown and four dump trucks contracted by Reid's Heritage Homes developer in Guelph were torched in the night. All of these actions were acts of solidarity with the Tyendinaga Mohawks fighting development and police repression on their land.

In a de-localized economy where companies function thanks to a constant flux of materials and woods, where value derives from connectedness to the network, where the highways are links in the chain of dematerialized production which moves from sub-contractor to sub-contractor and from there to another factory for assembly, to block production means to block traffic circulation.

-Comité Invisible

These acts of solidarity are a direct demonstration of attack against all structures of power wherever one lives. This includes, on top of all the projects that foster ecological and social devastation, the criminalization and arrest of our comrades and allies wherever they are. It is short sighted to reduce the question of repression against our comrades to something strictly linked to the police and legal apparatus. The developers, for example, who are building on Six Nation's territory or even in Guelph, indisputably have a hand in the repression we face. Finally, this criminalization and repression should be seen in the context of the social struggle as a whole, precisely because it's the means used by the state to make examples and discourage radicalized action everywhere. No matter how great or insignificant it might be, every act of repression affects every struggle (even our own) in their course against the structures of domination. Anyone who opposes power locally creates a planetary

shock-wave through the world's networks of power.

Every act of police brutality, every death in detention, every raid and blow only strengthens our compulsion to arm ourselves for revenge

ANONYMITY AND THE DISPERSAL OF ATTACK

The recent crackdown on the people using the old Reformatory lands is same old, same old, when thinking about the history of Guelph. Attacks like the repeated vandalism of a university professor's (who conducted vivisections at the U of Guelph) car in the '90s, the spur of anti-development arson that began in 2005, the organized anti-police attacks, the anti-SPP / Nestlé arsons and vandalism, the sabotage and arson around the wood squat eviction notices, etc, have all been pinned down on different groups for a reason. Most of these attacks have been claimed in communiqués, be it the ALF, ELF, anarchists, etc, it's always claimed and tied to a certain part of the population – leaving little to mystery. One reason why the unclaimed arson of the van at the police headquarters was linked to the squatter is because “these anarchist wood squatters have been known to destroy property and set fire to” this world of mediocrity. However, light is rarely put on the other suspicious fires that rip through Guelph every year. *The Guelph Mercury* article “All Smoke and No charges” (September 20th, 2008) analyses the history of suspicious fires in Guelph. Their focus is sadly limited to what they call “politically motivated” actions. Just by looking at the title of the article we understand who they are writing about. The fire at J.F. Ross High School in July 2008 led to the arrest of a youth, and many others have also been sent into a prison of concrete isolation for their acts of unchained rebellion, yet to the media it's still all smoke and no charges. The article



finishes by mentioning how the amount of suspicious fires keeps rising each year, from eleven in 2006 to sixteen in 2007 and so far there were at least seventeen in 2008. All these statistics exclude the attacks that failed, like the unexploded Molotov cocktail found under machinery at a Linamar plant in June 2008, which was also linked to the anarchist attacks against the SPP. Strangely enough, the media seems to forget the tense labour relations this company has with its wage-slaves. The labourers are not unionized and never were (except for a Skyjack plant) and have always expressed their anger in very clandestine ways. Some workers used to drive by the Hassenfratz CEO and owner's family home and shoot out the windows with rifles. Today the workers are even scared to have their names cited in the paper when speaking poorly of the company. So when a firebomb is found unexploded beneath their master's machinery there might be more to it than anarchist vandals, especially after one week media special on Linamar and its "beneficial" contribution to the city of Guelph. It's unwise to dismiss the insurgent capacities of exploited individuals. Another concern comes to mind with the media's heavy focus on specific groups of people – those of "political motivation" – when considering the lump of communiqués released every year by rebels on internet websites. Are we redirecting our efforts –to spread social conflict– back into the system of isolation when we define ourselves as the perpetrators of attacks and as certain types of people? Are we helping the media do its job of isolating, defining and limiting revolt? Sometimes the actions speak for themselves and in the haze of "who could'a done it?" we realize that anyone can do it. The couple months leading up to the federal election was a time when anonymous destructive action managed to explode, as thousands of dollars of damage was caused to politicians through the extensive vandalism done to their

election signs. Barry Osmond, responsible for Gloria Kovach's campaign signs, said he's never seen as much vandalism in a campaign before. He reminds us that the vandalism in the past was "usually random destruction near the downtown bars." Today the story is a lot different. "[Election] signs have been set alight, cleaved in half with a blowtorch, slashed into pieces, tossed into cornfields and vanished all together." "[On] College between Victoria and Hanlon, every single one [of] our signs – and there were thirty-five on both sides– they were all kicked in and damaged on a single day, and that is not someone who is let's say walking home and just decided to kick a sign in.. Now you're dealing with an arsonist as well as personal-property vandalism, and we're afraid that's going to get out of hand." That's right, it is threatening; the vandalism was so widespread and easy to reproduce that it brought fear to the political priests. The intimidation is not just meant for the supporters or candidates, but the entire political system. "[Every] party has had signs destroyed with a blowtorch." This spree of destruction was not confined to simple interparty conflict, but was an attack on the political elections themselves. The vote was cast: fuck the system! The destructive process is contagious. The rebel knows this well, like Douglas Gibson who was arrested and charged for mischief and intoxication after leaping through the air and crashing down through an electoral symbol of disempowerment. The creativity and simplicity of these attacks allowed for anyone to take part, while their anonymous nature left the struggle indefinable and thus uncontrollable. It is in anonymity that we mount generalized attack. Communiqués can be a useful tool for communicating expressions of solidarity to others but when overused become a limitation to the expansion of social conflict, for reasons beyond repression.

WITH FIRE!

The history of struggle in this territory inspires us. For some reason people are drawn here, perhaps to the kind-hearted and caring nature of passionate individuals or by the connection being built with the land. As much as settlement and development continue to be driving forces in the expansion and intensification of progress --different forces are drawing us together. These forces express the desire to organize ourselves towards the negation of this world and for a life in permanent conflict with the structures and relationships that perpetuate it. Stronger efforts must be made to meet face to face with other conflictual individuals who are collectively submerged in struggle, in order to deepen bonds of solidarity and expand the social war. If we are to disrupt the new developments and technologies that aim to further secure this global prison, then our efforts must be pushed forward towards greater communication, visibility and socially subversive complicity in struggle. We need to strive towards mutual aid: reciprocal and ongoing solidarity, in both creative and destructive projects. This is no easy task, and the question of "where to begin" will never cease to be asked, --for every step has its beginning.

One starting point is this publication, and we hope to move out from here together. The goal for any insurrection is to become irreversible. This must be achieved by annihilating authority at the same time as the need for authority, defeating property along with the taste for appropriating etc. Destruction is never enough to make things irreversible, everything is in the method. We must develop strategy and, through practice, the capability of responding to new situations and changes in the social context within/with which we struggle. Over and over again the social prison restructures itself with new ideology, technology and devastating projects. In the face of restructuring we must not remain stagnant and isolated. That's why it's important for us to start over each time, arming ourselves with new methods and analysis. Each time defining the enemy and attacking it. For this reason we stress the need for action --the cycle of practice, communication and critique. Consider this a contribution to ongoing discussion, for the sharpening of our strategies; towards the escalation of social conflict and insurrection.

Edited for length, full article to appear at www.guelphprak.org

*Reprinted from:
Burning Bridges
printed in 2009*



BRIEF CHRONOLOGY OF MILITANT RESISTANCE:

Guelph & Southern Ontario 2005-2011

By Stryke A. Match

PHOTO: ANTI-CAPITALIST RIOT DURING G20 IN TORONTO. JUNE 25TH 2010

Guelph — June 2005: People broke into *L. E. L. Farms Limited* located twenty minutes east of Guelph. They took pictures of the egg facility and they then liberated two hens. Published in *The Peak*, *Frosh Issue Vol. 42, Issue 1*.

“It was hard to feel happy about freeing two hens when we walked out of the barn full with almost 20,000 other prisoners, knowing full well that death soon awaited them.”

Claimed by “anonymous”

Guelph — June 2005: Garbage can lit on fire in Zellers foyer. Graffiti read “No more development” and “ELF”.

Claimed by “Earth Liberation Front”

Guelph — same night: Molotov cocktail thrown at front door of the Church of our Lady Immaculate downtown.

Never claimed

Guelph — Summer 2005: Seven pieces of construction were sabotaged.

“I am... sick and tired of watching our world be destroyed while people sit back and watch it with a beer in hand, drafting the next petition or letter to some politician. Please don’t just sit there and talk.”

Claimed by “anonymous”

Guelph — August 2005: Construction equipment sabotaged at condo development on Waterloo street. “ELF” spray-painted on billboard at site.

Claimed by “ELF”

Guelph — October 30th 2005: several fires were set at the Cutten Club, partially burning down the pro shop, and causing close to \$500,000 in damage. Graffiti at the site read “ELF in support of Special Diet”

Claimed by “ELF”

Guelph — January 30th 2006: Arson at Dawn road home under construction in Memory of William C. Rogers ‘Avalon’, ELF member who died in prison.

“We are at war, even if the images of spectacular daily life try to make us believe the contrary.

We have not chosen these social conditions ourselves,

we can only choose from what position to fight.

Our position is that of combatants between two worlds--one that we don't acknowledge, the other that does not yet exist."

Claimed by "ELF"

Guelph — March 8th 2006: On International Women's Day, protesters shut down Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal. Five arrested and assaulted by police.

One witness yelled, "you just assaulted my friend" to which the officer "whatever."

Claimed by "GUTS"

Guelph — Early April 2006: Construction equipment at new City Hall sabotaged against city and arrests earlier that day. Claimed by "Anarchist Solidarity"

Guelph — April 7th 2006: Demonstration by eighty people blocked traffic downtown Guelph for hours. At the intersection of Macdonell and Wyndham st. an effigy of Bryan Welsh was burnt. Chants included "Burn Bryan Welsh" and "Fuck the Police."

"People gathered to protest the sexual assault of a GUTS... member by officer Brian Welsh ... as well as police brutality in general."

Claimed by "GUTS"

Guelph — June 25th 2006: Three pieces of machinery sabotaged at development site on Victoria road.

"...such an ugly situation so sinister and dire, There's nothing quite so lovely as a development on fire"

Claimed by "Anarchist Fire Brigade"

Guelph — June 27th 2005: Arson of new house under construction on Summit Ridge road.

"3 Gallons of gasoline was used to burn the building at 75 Summit ridge.

Stop urban sprawl.

If you build it we will burn it"

Claimed by "ELF"

The following actions all took place within one week:

Toronto — July 14th 2006: Citiplace Condominium had a dozen excavators sabotaged by pouring dirt in air filters and gas tank. Claimed by "ELF"

Brantford — July 17-19th 2006: Five suburban sprawl sites sabotaged. Claimed by "ELF"

Guelph — July 18th 2006: Arson of house under construction at Arkell road and Gordon street against G8 meeting in St. Petersburg.

"The G8 agenda promotes petroleum — dependent "Energy Security" that pollutes our land... and

scorches the Earth's climate. Their recipe for catastrophe must be met with our global resistance!

On 18th July, 2006, 6 litres of gas were put to use."

Claimed by "ELF"

London — July 21st-24th 2006: Home Depot, Toyota Dealership and four constructions site sabotaged. Message in grease left, "stop destroying the earth."

Claimed by "ELF"

Guelph — August 3rd 2006: Arson at a new house under construction by Reids Heritage Homes.

Claimed by "ELF"

Guelph — November 2nd 2006: Banners left at Mayor Kate Quattrone's office during elections. Banners read "If she builds it, we will burn it," "ELF," "ELFs are mad."

Claimed by "ELF"

Guelph — May 4th 2007: Fifty people try to storm Guelph police annual ball. People tried to repeatedly push through police lines. They then blocked traffic on Woodlawn road. Spitting on police cruiser and taunting the police.

Claimed by "GUTS"

Guelph — May 4th 2007: Paint bombs were thrown at ten police cruisers in the police parking lot downtown.

"For everyone who has felt the fear instilled in them by these pigs, we attack. Inspired by our allies, we attack; because to wait is to submit to their fear. You can get away with much

more than these fascists claim to allow.”

Claimed by “Anon.”

Guelph — May 10th 2007: Paint bombs were thrown at the Canadian Forces Armory.

“It is not just the violence in the police force that must be challenged, but the police, the state, capitalism and the culture that breeds them. Canada get the fuck out of our streets!”

Claimed by “Anonymous”

Youtube — May 2007: Video released on how to block railway lines using thick gauges of copper wire and cotton gloves. Taken down within a day for encouraging sabotage. Influential in attacks that followed in Guelph.

“Real solidarity means shouldering some of the burden of struggle.”

Claimed by “Railway Ties Collective”

Guelph — June 29th 2007: Failed attempt at blockading railway through Guelph.

“In support of sabotage, not the AFN”

Claimed by “Anonymous”

Guelph — June 30th 2007: On Assembly of First Nations Day of Action. Demonstration of over one hundred people in Saint George Square downtown calling for indigenous sovereignty.

Guelph — July 1st 2007: On Canada Day, Politician Brenda Chamberlains office graffitied and locks glued.

“Our message to you Brenda is give back all the land you stole, and are about to steal from exploited peoples and RUN in the next election, RUN AWAY!”

Happy Birthday Canada!”

Claimed by “Anonymous”

Guelph — July 1st 2007: Mohawk warrior flag hung from top of Church of our Lady. Construction equipment damaged by turning it on and letting it run dry.

Never Claimed

Guelph — July 2nd 2007: CN Railway east of Guelph blockaded with a tire fire and copper wire.

“This was an action performed to cause economic harm to CN rail and add to the fight for native freedom and autonomy, which we also ultimately see as a step toward greater freedom and autonomy to all peoples, natives and settlers alike.

Let’s have a toast to CN Rail”

Claimed by “Anonymous”

Guelph — August 13th 2007: Linamar’s head office windows broken, graffiti left, and locked glued against SPP.

“With the SPP comes projects like eManifest to

“harmonize” the repressive apparatus of Canadian borders with those of the United States, in order to facilitate the flow of Capital in times of unrest and social chaos.”

Claimed by “The Informal Collective of Linamar’s Slain Workers”

Guelph — October 1st 2007: Liberal & conservative party headquarters vandalized and windows smashed. Graffiti read “your not listening” and “progressive conservative fascist out of guelph! Circle A.”

“It is election season in Ontario and this year we cast bricks instead of ballots”

Claimed by “The Anarchists”

Guelph — November 8th 2007: Water tower in Exhibition park painted with “Linamar - Nestle get out of Guelph”

“If these fools believe they can continue their process of dispossession and exploitation unscathed, they are terribly wrong.”

Claimed by “Your Personal Admirers”

Guelph — November 9th 2007: Front gate to Linda Hassenfratz mansion closed with a chain and lock. Home of CEO of Linamar. Graffiti read, “water not for sale” and “Linamar out of Guelph”

“Our message to oppressors like Linamar and Nestle is clear: ARE NOT WELCOME ANYWHERE!”

Let us make this a reality.”

Claimed by “Your Personal Admirers”

Guelph — November 10th 2007: Five tires on three dump trucks slashed at Reid Heritage Homes facility on Hood street. Solidarity with BC Olympic Resistance.

“This is the first time we’ve ever done something like this.”

Claimed by “Anonymous”

Guelph — December 12th 2007: Two vans disabled by fire at Bell Canada Enterprises downtown against Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) & BC Olympics. Solidarity with ‘Green Scare’ defendants.

“Michael Sabia, you are the CEO of Bell...Do us all a favour and fire yourself like we fired your vans.”

Claimed by “Not ‘Green Scared’.”

Guelph — February 3rd 2008: Three Linamar offices graffitied, postured and locks glued against SPP. Re/Max building graffitied, locks glued and windows smashed against Sun Peaks Ski Resort. Graffiti read “None Forgiven, Sun Peaks 2001”. Solidarity with BC Olympic Resistance.

“Our struggles connected, our enemies everywhere.

Let us give nothing to this system but our resignation and resistance!!”

Claimed by “Anarchists”

Guelph — February 12th 2008: Six large windows smashed at Delta Hotel at Stone road and Gordon street on its opening day. Solidarity with Sun Peaks Resistance and BC Olympic Resistance.

“Delta Hotels are appearing wherever yuppie development is booming”

Claimed by “Anonymous”

Tyendinaga — April 25th 2008: Warriors block Slash road and two others. Grass fires are lit and a standoff ensues for twenty-four hours with armed police. Police cars trashed, with arrests.

Guelph — April 25th 2008: Twelve tires slashed on three Bell vans downtown against BC Olympics, G8 and SPP. Solidarity with Tyendinaga warriors under siege by police.

“As our comrades in Tyendinaga state ‘not one more development’ not one more suburb built, not one more policeman in our streets... NO MORE!”

Claimed by “The May 29th Momentum” [referencing Aboriginal Day of Action called by the Assembly of First Nations]

Guelph — April 25th 2008: Three dump trucks destroyed by fire, a fourth damaged at Priori and Sons facility. Graffiti read [OPP] “Get the Hell Out of Tyendinaga.”

“They were also selected to send a message to all other developers, currently

encroaching on native land, your developments are the continuation of a war on native people started long ago, get out of native land everywhere. Finally, we send a message to all state forces CSIS, RCMP, OPP, and Police. Let this be a sign of days to come.”

Claimed by “Anarchist(s)”

Guelph — April 26th 2008: Over four hundred tires slashed in residential areas of Guelph. Never Claimed

Guelph — April 28th 2008: Highway 6 at Paisley road blockaded by twenty settlers with flaming barricades and construction pylons. Banner read “Solidarity with Tyendinaga” in response to armed siege by OPP.

“It only takes a few people and last night we demonstrated that. We hope this can be a model for other communities and encourage you to respond locally.”

Claimed by “Anonymous”

Guelph — June 9th 2008: Molotov cocktail burnt itself out under a piece of equipment at Linamar plant.

Never Claimed

Guelph — August 4th 2008: On John Galt Day, red metal paint was used to vandalize John Galt statue in front of City Hall.

Communique on Page 8
Claimed by “Anarchist Settlers”

Guelph — August 24th 2008: McDonalds toilets sabotaged with cement. Solidarity BC Olympic resistance.

"We did this after the Guelph Wood Squat received a notice of eviction. According to Jim Stokes, the city's manager of realty services, "Pouring [concrete] foundations is way beyond what we will allow." The concrete foundation was the beginning of a straw bale home for the winter. Either construction continues or the cement gets used in other ways."

Claimed by "Anonymous"

Santa Cruz, California — August 24th 2008: Four windows and door broken at condo development in downtown Santa Cruz. Solidarity with Guelph wood squat.

"...solidarity with the people living at the "wood squat" of Guelph, Ontario who are facing eviction by that city...

And now, the perennial conflict arises again between those desiring to live freely and this civilization based upon "owning" and "developing" the land and suppressing all other ways of life."

Claimed by "Social Warfare"

Tacoma, Washington — August 27th 2008: Two Billboards vandalized. Condo has two windows broken and paint

bombed. Solidarity with Guelph wood squat and the RNC 8.

"The condo that was attacked is merely another condo, designed to pull in wealthy residents, raise property values, push fascist ideals of architectural beauty and further gentrify tacoma. all condos are subject to attack."

Claimed by "Resume Hostilities"

Guelph — September 2nd 2008: Anarchists blockaded southbound lanes of Highway 6 at Paisley road. Flaming tires and branches were use to block the road. Copper wire and burning tires were left on the train tracks. Banner read "Repression in Six Nations, Repression at home, Solidarity."

"We acted in solidarity with the three native comrades from Six Nations arrested on Monday morning, September 1st at the occupation of Kingspan development site in Brantford."

Claimed by "A Band of Ninjas"

Guelph — September 6th 2008: A police van at downtown police station was destroyed by fire. An adjacent vehicle was singed.

Never Claimed

Toronto — October 12th 2008: CP Rail tracks blockaded by native youth and activists, including Guelph activists. Disrupted rail traffic for hours. Solidarity with BC Olympic resistance.

"Today we shed light on what the Olympics really stands for; capitalist and colonialist theft of Indigenous lands"

Claimed by "group of activists"

Ontario — October 21st 2008: Two telephone polls cut down blocking CP Rail tracks and set on fire. Molotov cocktails used to burn electrical box. Copper wire used to signal blockage. Solidarity with Olympic Resistance.

"For us the Spirit Train is every train, they're all spreading "Olympic spirit", or more like the spirit of capitalism...

Let's show'em what we can do and aim for our actual objective!

Every train - stopped, every track - untied, every jail - destroyed!"

Claimed by "Anonymous"

Tyendinaga — September 24th/October 29th 2008: Police station blockaded from being built on reserve.

Tyendinaga — November 10th 2008: Arrest warrants released for warrior actions during police station blockades.

Guelph — November 10th 2008: Blockade set up at Clair road and Gordon street against Nestlé and south end police station. Solidarity with Tyendinaga warriors fighting police station. Five people arrested.

Pamphlet Read; "In both Tyendinaga and Guelph (and virtually everywhere else) corporate interests threaten the safety of and access to clean water.."

Claimed by "Anonymous"

Guelph — November 27th 2008: Three windows broken at McDonald's on Gordon st and Wellington st. Graffiti Left against the BC Olympic Games.
Never Claimed

Ontario — December 20th 2008: Four banks had windows and ATM's broken with hammers. Graffiti against capital left. Solidarity with Greece's December uprising, native resistance and prisoner resistance.

"Banks pay for prisons. We are against this prison-society and its final conclusion; the lifeless prison structure."

Claimed by "Anonymous"

Guelph — January 10th 2009: Two ATM card slots filled with silicone at Bank of Montreal at Edinburgh road and Speedvale road. Solidarity with Ronnie Easterbrook, Greece, Oakland and Mohawk uprisings against police and Vandals who attacked Mcdonalds in Guelph.

"...Solidarity with... bank robber Ronnie Easterbrook (78) who is in grave condition after 3 weeks of ongoing hunger strike."

"Banks finance development and repression, from new police

stations to urban sprawl."

"Sabotage continues against development and repression!"

Claimed by "Anonymous"

Guelph — May 1st 2009: Police sabotage and trash wood squat at Watson and Stone road.

Guelph — June 17th 2009: Highway 6 at Paisley street blocked during rush hour with fallen trees and smoke bombs against SPP and Linamar. Banner read " PARK YOUR CARS! Solidarity with the Mohawk Nation" Solidarity expressed with mohawk nation.

Claimed by "Anonymous"

Guelph — June 25th 2009: Windows broken at Traxel Manufacturing (a Linamar company). City Hall vandalized with paint bombs.

"Yes, we were wearing party hats"

Claimed by "Three Day Attack"

Guelph — June 26th 2009: Windows broken at Linamar head office.

Claimed by "Three Day Attack"

Guelph — June 27th 2009: Two molotov cocktails thrown at TD Bank machine near Stone road. They failed to go off.

"In solidarity with... ourselves!"

Claimed by "Three Day Attack"

Guelph — July 27th 2009: Sixty people took over the construction site of Hanlon Creek Business Park on downey road and Laird road

for a nineteen day occupation. Trenches dug and blockades built. Halting construction for six months.

Guelph — July 30th 2009: Graffiti goes up against condos on Cardigan street. Graffiti read, "Gentrification is war," "Hang Developers," and "go home yuppie scum."

Never Claimed

Guelph — September 1st 2009: Two anarchists arrested putting up posters and anti-police graffiti downtown. Graffiti included "ACAB" [All Cops Are Bastards] and "Dead Cops."

Guelph — September 1st 2009: Trenches re-dug in the middle of the night at HCBP.

Never Claimed

Guelph — September 2nd 2009: Home of Drexler contractor visited with a hand delivered note asking them to pull out of the HCBP.

Claimed by "Friends of the Hanlon Creek"

Guelph — October 29th 2009: Demonstration against sod turning ceremony at HCBP. People arrive in costume, do a satirical sod turning ceremony. As politicians and developers leave, they are spat and cursed at, and their busses are blocked from leaving.

Claimed by "HCBP Occupation"

Kitchener — November 26th 2009: Demonstrated held outside of Xterra Construction office against HCBP.

Claimed by "HCBP Occupation"

Guelph — December 28th 2009: Olympic torch relay disrupted downtown, torchbearer falls amid a scuffle with police and two people are arrested.

Guelph — February 16th 2010: ATM and locks filled with glue at Kortright road and Gordon street. Solidarity with BC Olympic Resistance.

"Sabotage the Banks!
Sabotage the Systems of
Social Control!"

Claimed by "Anonymous"

Milton — April 18th 2010: Noise demonstration at Maplehurst-Vanier Corrections Complex in solidarity with prisoners and prison revolt. Front sign graffitied with "Against Prison" and "Against Police." Prisoners responded by banging windows.

Chant "In Every City, In
Every Town, Burn Their
Prisons To The Ground!"

Claimed by "Anonymous"

Ontario — May 1st 2010: On May Day, CN Rail electrical shed destroyed by two firebombs. Solidarity with anarchists in the streets and in prison.

"This action was done in the
spirit of the general strike;
taking immediate action
towards the destruction of
capitalism."

Claimed by "anonymous"

Guelph — May 7th 2010: Attempted occupation of Carson Reid's headquarters on Dufferin street fails. Sixty people take over two other developers offices and march on City Hall.

Claimed by "HCBP Occupation"

Guelph — June 8th 2010: Mayor Karen Farbridges house visited and front yard developed. Action against the Hanlon Creek Business Park.

Claimed by "Friends of the Hanlon Creek"

Toronto — June 25th 2010 : Black bloc causes millions of dollars in damage to corporations and state buildings and cars during anti-G20 riot. Rioter burn Six cop cars, and battles with the police continue for hours but die down in the night. 1100 people arrested throughout the weekend. twenty people are arrested, many at gun point, for allegedly organizing the demonstration, including people from Guelph after a year and a half long undercover operation.

Toronto — June 27th 2010: Two Bank of Montreal branches are attacked. The first one has several windows broken. The second, the ATM is glued, it's screens smashed and then several windows broken. Solidarity with G20 arrestees and against the new Toronto South Detention Centre, built in Mimico, Ont.

"This expansion will
replace the existing
Toronto Jail in 2012 with
new high-tech and sterile
forms of incarceration.

Solidarity means attack!

Against all repression and
its prisons!"

Claimed by "Anonymous"

Guelph — July 1st 2010: On Canada Day, windows were broken at Wells Fargo Bank on Stone road. Solidarity with RBC firebombers and G20 defendants.

"Wells Fargo puts
money into prisons,
such as detention
centres for migrants.

In the anarchist tradition,
following the resistance to
the G20, we continue to
bring destruction to the
banks and their project of a
prison-world."

Claimed by "Anarchists"

Milton — July 8th 2010: Noise demonstration at Maplehurst-Vanier Corrections Complex in solidarity with prisoner revolts and G20 prisoners. Prisoners responded by banging windows.

"Freedom is the crime
that commits all crime.

Fire to the prisons and the
world that needs them."

Claimed by "Anonymous"

Guelph — July 21st 2010: ATMs at an RBC smashed and cards slots filled with adhesive against Tar Sands and new Toronto South Detention Centre. Solidarity with arrested anarchists in Canada and Greece.

“Solidarity with the west coast for hating the cops and for showing it...”

Claimed by “FTP!” [Fuck The Police]

Guelph — October 20th 2010: Capital Paving quarry near the intersect of County road 34 and Highway 6 blockaded. Action against the Hanlon Creek Business Park.

Claimed by “Friends of the Hanlon Creek”

Ontario — March 14th 2011: Copper wire used to disrupt five major train lines. Solidarity with Montreal anarchists arrested on March 12th 2011.

Claimed by “Anonymous”

Guelph — April 20th 2011: Windows broken and paint thrown in of Herbal Magic Weight Loss Clinic on Wellington avenue.

“Herbal Magic, and other enterprises which sell us “health” and “wellness” at the expense of our self-esteem, hijack our relationships to our bodies”

Claimed by “Anonymous”

Toronto — April 17th 2011: Five banks and their ATMs in North Toronto vandalized. Two Bank of Montreals, two TD Banks, one Scotiabank. Solidarity with indigenous Haudeneseunee & Mapuche land struggles.

“...Solidarity for those in prison in both ‘Canada’ and ‘Chile’ who have struggled with dignity against our

mutually repressive colonial state.”

Claimed by “Anonymous”

Guelph — June 3rd 2011: Billboard for Reids Heritage homes trashed at Gordon road and Clair road. Solidarity to Long term political prisoners in North America and Mapuche hunger strikers.

“We choose Reid’s Heritage Homes because... They are our local ruling elite.”

Claimed by “Anarchists”

Guelph — June 11th 2011: Six windows were broken at Terra View Homes head office on Silvercreek road. Solidarity with long term Political Prisoners in North America.

“Terra View Homes... specialize in selling guilt free conscious[ness]. They develop ‘Green’ Homes...”

The land is fragile, but the developers are not. Eco-capital is a sham.”

Claimed by “Anarchists”

Waterloo — June 17th 2011: Windows broken at a presentation building for condos on Belmont Avenue. A construction machine has paint stripper thrown on it and it’s windows broken. Solidarity with long term Political Prisoners in North America.

“Tricar Group...create more space for the rich...Waterloo, Guelph, Sarnia and London.

Condos are Class War”

Claimed by “Anarchists”

Kitchener — July 9th 2011: Noise Demonstration outside Grand Valley Institute for Women, a federal women’s prison. Prisoners were in the yard and yelled back to the demonstration. Solidarity with California hunger strike at Pelican Bay.

Claimed by “Anonymous”

Guelph — Tomorrow: More, much more...



Rise Above the Influence

REBEKAH NICOLE

Surrounded by a world that doesn't make sense
You're trying to rise above the influence

Nothing feels real, nothing feels worth it.
So sick of the lies, you're sick of the bullshit.

Desperately fighting to be yourself
Forget expectations of anyone else
First step is to fix the person inside
Let your essence guide you, don't make it hide
Don't keep it inside

Surrounded by a world that doesn't make sense
You're fighting to rise above the influence

Trying to show the truth to people around you
They clearly don't understand, never understand you

Desperately fighting to be yourself
Forget expectations of anyone else
First step is to fix the person inside
Let your essence guide you, don't make it hide
Don't keep it inside

Surrounded by a world that doesn't make sense
You're starting to rise above the influence



So Happy I Could Kill Myself

REBEKAH NICOLE



Imagine you are on top of the world. You are invincible, and nothing can stop you. You succeed in everything you do. Your dreams are coming true around you, and you know that it is due to your own perseverance and skill. You know you are beautiful, both inside and out. The people around you adore you. You are popular, loved and envied. Your euphoric state of mind feels like heaven.

Then you take a wrong turn.
Make a bad decision.
Plummet into hell.

You are ashamed; Worthless. Your body feels heavy and drained. You have lost everything, and it is your own fault. You have driven away the people who care. You want to stay in bed, waste away your days with desperate nothingness. You can't decide which you prefer - the agony, or the emptiness. You are trapped inside of your own mind.

The passage above is a small glance at what life is like from inside the mind of a person with bipolar disorder. If you know anyone who is suffering with this disorder (formerly known as manic depression), or are suffering with the disorder yourself, you can appreciate how large of a toll this overwhelming and terrifying mental condition can take on a person's life.

It is a biological psychiatric condition that involves extreme highs and lows of mood, activity, and cognition. Individuals suffering with this condition experience a cycle of depression and mania. Almost one in every thirty people have been diagnosed with bipolar, and many more are left to face their condition confused and alone. In 1991 the costs of bipolar disorder had totalled at a massive forty-five billion US dollars in America alone. It has been estimated that a twenty five year old person diagnosed with bipolar disorder who fails to receive adequate treatment is likely to lose a shocking nine years of life and an additional fourteen years of major life activity. Though treatment for bipolar is available and generally very effective when taken regularly, the majority of patients end up relapsing at some point within five years of beginning their treatment. Generally the first onset of bipolar disorder occurs between the ages of nineteen and twenty-three - the age of the majority of students here at Guelph.

THE CYCLE OF DEPRESSION AND MANIA

A bipolar cycle, or episode of depression and mania, can vary from between forty-eight hours and five years in length, and in some cases, the individual actually experiences both mania and depression simultaneously, instead of switching back and forth between the two. Between thirteen and twenty percent of patients diagnosed with bipolar disorder are

considered rapid cyclers, meaning that they experience at least four episodes of depression or mania within a single year. Rapid cycling is experienced disproportionately by women, and can be caused by medication non adherence, psychosis, alcohol or drug abuse, sleep deprivation, or antidepressant medications.

While in the depressive stage of a bipolar cycle, symptoms include a sad mood, loss of interests, fatigue, psychomotor retardation or agitation,

***“Surprisingly,
this manic state is
actually often far
more damaging to
the life of a person
dealing with bipolar
disorder than the
depressive episodes.”***

loss of concentration, insomnia, feelings of worthlessness, and suicidality. Suicide is a major issue that many individuals with bipolar disorder face - between ten and fifteen percent of bipolar patients eventually commit suicide. Essentially, someone with bipolar disorder is thirty percent more likely to commit suicide than a person without the disorder.

In contrast to the depressive stage, the mania causes euphoric, elevated or irritable mood states, racing of thoughts (or the verbal concomitant, flight of ideas), pressure of speech, increased activity and

energy, impulsive high-risk behaviours, an inflated sense of self-worth or grandiose delusions, distractibility, and a decreased need for sleep. While in the manic state individuals are highly excited and full of energy, often talking at a rapid speed as though it is of absolute importance that they express the contents of their mind in a short amount of time. It may sometimes seem as though manic people do not need sleep, but inevitably they eventually become exhausted, causing the mania to decrease. Surprisingly, this manic state is actually often far more damaging to the life of a person dealing with bipolar disorder than the depressive episodes. This is because individuals are often blind to the possible consequences of their actions while in a manic state, and have frenetic activity in aspects of their lives such as work and sexual relationships.

Generally the first onset of bipolar disorder is a depressive episode in female patients while it is a manic episode in male patients. Likewise, women are normally depressed for longer than they are manic while men are generally manic for longer than they are depressed. In addition to this, women are more likely to experience more rapid cycles than men.

LIVING WITH THE CONDITION

The consequences of bipolar disorder are immense, for both the patient and those close to them. Individuals with this disorder are more likely to end their marriages with separation or divorce, and often struggle to give their children a stable upbringing. At least ten to fifteen percent of bipolar patients commit suicide, which means they are thirty percent more likely to take their own life than a member of the “normal population”. Approximately one third of all bipolar patients find it impossible to work within six months after experiencing a manic episode, and four in every five patients do not work at their “expected level”. The majority of individuals with bipolar disorder show

“declines in occupational functioning” over the five years after an episode.

TREATMENTS AND RELAPSE

Fortunately, the treatments for bipolar disorder have proven to be very highly effective when taken properly. The treatments are rarely anything but pharmacotherapy, and include mood stabilizers such as lithium, anticonvulsants, and adjunctive agents. These pharmaceuticals reduce the activity of protein C signalling cascade, thus reducing the symptoms of this disorder.

The first mood stabilizer to come into wide use was lithium carbonate. Lithium is between fifty and sixty percent effective in controlling the symptoms of bipolar disorder and preventing the occurrence of episodes. Some of the negative effects of lithium include weight gain, nausea, and trembling.

Though by far the most popular, lithium is not the only treatment available for bipolar patients. Some others include anticonvulsant medications such as divalproex sodium, or Depakote, carbamazepine, or Tegretol, oxcarbazepine, or Trileptal, and lamotrigine, or Lamictal. These alternatives are generally used on lithium-refractory patients, patients who complain of lithium's side effects, or patients with atypical symptoms, such as mixed episodes or rapid cycling.

Mood stabilizers are often combined with antidepressants because the mood stabilizers focus far more on controlling the manic symptoms than the depressive ones. These antidepressants can be extremely dangerous to bipolar patients, as they can sometimes cause manic episodes or rapid cycling.

Relapse is unfortunately very common within bipolar patients, primarily because the patients miss their high, euphoric periods and dislike having their moods controlled by medication. Some patients also complain that the medications reduce creativity. Approximately forty percent of bipolar patients relapse within a year

of taking their medication, sixty percent after two years, and seventy-three percent after five years. More than fifty percent of the select patients who do not relapse suffer from significant residual symptoms of mood disorder.

Though the pharmacotherapeutic treatment is far more common, there are some psychosocial approaches to controlling this disorder, such as family or marital therapy, interpersonal and social rhythm therapy, and individual cognitive behavioral therapy. Through family or marital therapy, the family is educated about how they can most appropriately and effectively deal with a bipolar relative. Interpersonal and social rhythm therapy assists the patient in understanding and renegotiating the interpersonal context associated with their specific symptoms. This approach often focuses on stabilizing the patients daily routines; especially their sleeping patterns. Through individual cognitive behavioral therapy the patients are taught to identify, evaluate, and restructure cognitive distortions. Illness management strategies are developed, including behavioral activation, drug compliance monitoring, and the appropriate use of support systems.

If you believe that you or someone close to you may be suffering with bipolar disorder please do not hesitate to contact the University's counselling services at www.counselling.uoguelph.ca



Some Shade of Grey

REBEKAH NICOLE

I feel like I'm drowning
the pressure comes at me, on all sides
crushing me
slowly
tearing me down
do I face the grief,
the misery?
Or push it away,
will it into nonexistence
so I can be happy
ignorant
naive
fake
but happy

how do I escape this hell?
This torture
inside of my brain
pulling me apart
twisted contradictions inside my own mind
how do I regain control?
How do I make myself want to?
Want to be what they want me to be
I do, because its easy
I want to follow the current
give up the fight

but how can I?
I am me
I know that can't be bad

then I rethink that statement
consider the things I've done
how could I?

I need to do this more often
I feel like I want to rant to others because I want a reaction
what reaction, I don't know

or do I?
How do I delve deeper into this mind that confuses me so?
How do I make sense of it all

but its not
it never will be
every thing is just some shade of grey

I'm searching for the line
that draws the difference between right and wrong
but the line doesn't exist
it never has
it never will

a societal creation
attempting to tell me how to live
why do I want to obey?
Why do I want to rebel?

Why is my body tearing in two
never knowing what I am
where I am headed
what I will become

the same with writing
black and white
i want to to rant, for pages
forget structure
repetition
wordplay
clarity of meaning
just...
go

let the words spill from my mind, creating meaning as they move across the page
the words aren't for reading
the words are for writing

what does it matter
what other people think?
These are my words
these words are me
they are me, and they are for me

they don't need to be altered, scripted so that some
capitalistic editor
can decide what my readers want me to say
they can listen to me
or they can deem me unworthy of being heard

DisOrientation Week Schedule

for updated information on these dates :
disowebk.wordpress.com



RADICAL TOUR OF DOWNTOWN

Sunday, 3pm, meet at the Farmer's
Market downtown

During this tour we will learn about some historical events of resistance and colonization in the downtown, learn about some of the current struggles of the people living in the downtown area and examine what people are creating in response to poverty, gentrification and the need for community. The tour will go through the downtown and some of the Ward. It will be wheelchair accessible. Rain or Shine!

MEDICINAL HERBS FOR YOUR MENSTRUAL CYCLE

Monday, 5pm, in GRCGED
(UC 107)

This workshop will examine different herbs for your menstrual cycle. We will take an in depth look at therapeutic properties that affect the reproductive system (uterines, emmenagogues, nervines, etc..) From there, we will identify which properties are recommended for different chronic and acute ailments such as cramping, delayed periods, short cycles, excessive bleeding, etc.. Hand-outs will be given on some very safe herbs to use.

This workshop is open to people with vaginas (trans + cis gendered)

LETTER WRITING TO POLITICAL PRISONERS

Monday, 7:30pm, in GRCGED
(UC 107)

Spend some time relieve the pain of being locked in a system that doesn't work and write a prisoner.

We supply the pens, paper, stamps, and addresses. First time writing to a prisoner? We have resources and folks on hand that can answer your questions. Presented by Guelph ABC.

ALTERNATIVE MEDIA IN GUELPH

Tuesday, 3:30pm, in the CSA
boardroom

Do you have a story to tell? A story that the mainstream doesn't want to hear? Well, forget them. The airwaves belong to us all. Let's drown them out and make our voices heard! Learn from people just like you, who are discovering the many cheap, democratic ways to broadcast our stories. From zines and blogs, to community radio and video art.

We'll focus on the people and places in Guelph that will help your voice be heard.

Facilitated by the CFRU News Team

OCCUPY YOUR EDUCATION ACTIVIST PANEL

Tuesday, 5:30pm, in UC 442

Think university's all about classes? Thanks to the work of students, in 2007 most coffee sold on campus went fair trade. In 1997, students occupied the administration office along with 8 other Universities in protest of rising tuition fees. This activism is part of a long tradition, as far back as 1913 when students created the Campus Co-op. So how are you going to make your mark? Come out to this panel discussion and hear from some awesome present-day activists. How did they get involved? What did they accomplish? What did they learn? And how can you take over?

Come join us, engage, and disorient yourself by learning from activists who went to the University of Guelph! This panel will feature – Lisa Russell, who is a Guelph based activist who works with Guelph SOS, an anti-poverty group. She will talk about poverty in Guelph and how to get involved. Eduardo Huesca is a Migrant Right's activist who will speak about past student solidarity work with Migrant Workers and the importance of off-campus activism in general.

ACTIVIST SOIRÉE

Tuesday, 7pm, after the activist panel in UC 343

Come out to UC room 343 for free food and a meet and greet after the Activist Panel Discussion. Meet some local activists, ask questions, sign up to volunteer, find out about events and meet other students and campus community

members who are interested in social justice! This is Guelph Queer Equality's first weekly social of the semester; all are welcome regardless of attendance at the Activist Panel!

ALTERNATIVE POSTER SALE AND RESOURCE FAIR

Wednesday, 10-4pm, in Branion Plaza (by the cannon)

Come check out a great selection of posters at the Alternative Poster Sale and become acquainted with a selection of awesome organizations on this campus that work for social and environmental justice – all of which are looking for YOU to become engaged! The posters are at affordable prices – some are free – so you can decorate your walls with great artwork and good messages. Posters will have a human rights and social justice focus, unlike anything you can buy elsewhere on campus.

REVOLUTION, UPRISINGS AND IMPERIALIST WAR

Wednesday, 5:30pm, in UC 441

What is behind the major events this year across the Middle East and North Africa, and how does it relate to the struggle of students in Canada? Mass revolutionary people's uprisings over the past months have inspired the world and overturned US-backed dictatorial regimes in Tunisia and Egypt, with youth and students playing a dynamic and militant role.

But now the Harper Conservative government is spending millions of dollars bombing Libya, while claiming their is not enough money for social and environmental programs, or to reduce tuition fees. Come hear Miguel Figueroa, a long-time writer, activist and leader of the Communist Party of Canada. Miguel has

spoken across Canada and internationally on topics of war and peace, globalization, militarism and the struggles of working people. He will deconstruct the situation and open a discussion about the way forward. Do youth have a right to live in a world at peace? Contact gycl@uoguelph.ca, or meet GYCL members at the event if you are interested in getting involved! Co-sponsored by the Young Communist League (Guelph) and the Charter of Youth Rights campaign.

SCREENING OF *THE WAR ON DEMOCRACY*

Wednesday, 7pm, in UC 441

Pilger's film explores the past and current relationship between the United States and Latin American countries such as Venezuela, Bolivia and Chile. Through interviews and archive footage, a series of interventions (overt and covert) lead by the U.S. which severely impacted (and continue to impact) Latin American policies, politics and culture are examined. Pilger also focuses on how people have managed to rise up and take control of their countries! Please join us after Miguel Figueroa's lecture to continue a night of engaging entertainment!

SCREENING OF *THE GARDEN*

Thursday, 5:30pm, Mackinnon 304

From the ashes of the Los Angeles riots arose a lush, 14-acre community garden, the largest of its kind in the United States. Now bulldozers threaten its future. Come watch 'The Garden' with the CSA Foodbank, a student funded and run service that provides graduate and undergraduate University of Guelph students access to emergency food, anti-poverty resources, and referrals to other food security, anti-poverty and financial assistance groups.

PROGRESSIVE PROFESSOR PANEL

Thursday, 7pm, in UC 441

This is your chance to meet some of the progressive professors at the University of Guelph! Come hear about the work they are doing and how you can remain (or become!) progressive in the world of academia. The panel will feature Professor Keefer from the School of English and Theatre Studies, Professor Wendling from the Department of Philosophy, Professor Kowalchuk from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, as well as Janice Folk-Dawson from CUPE 1334 who will provide an introduction to some of the labour issues on campus. Listen, engage and learn!

GETTING STARTED WITH ACTIVIST RESEARCH

Friday, 1pm, (location TBA)

So you're passionate about making social change. You want to explore an issue, understand it, and communicate your ideas — maybe through an article for the Peak, a paper for class, or a pamphlet for a campaign. Or maybe you just want to make an informed comment on a blog or follow up on a late night debate with your roommate. How do you channel that passion into the development of informed understandings? How and where do you find the information you need to support your ideas? Join Dave Hudson, a University of Guelph librarian, for a workshop on how to get started with activist research. We'll focus specifically on preliminary steps for moving from a vague idea to a focused, grounded research process.



submit to the Peak

The Peak is looking for submissions for the **CLASS STRUGGLE** issue.

Every time your boss screws you on your hours or shorts you on your pay, every time the police cruise through your neighborhood encroaching on your space, every time that you have to walk across town because you can't afford the bus fare: This is class struggle.

We will consider art, letters, opinion articles, research articles, poetry, photographs, rants, interviews, book/film/event reviews... anything that fits on the printed page! Submissions are not limited to the suggested topics and off-theme content will also be included in this issue.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

peakcontent@gmail.com or drop things off at Room 258 in the UC on the U of G campus

CLASS STRUGGLE ISSUE

Suggested topics: Precarious worker experiences, History of queer class struggle, Solidarity network success stories, History of the general strike or Eight hour day movement, The gender divide in the workforce, Class tensions in Guelph.



*Hey there baby,
I could use just a little help.
You can't start a fire without a spark
...Even if we are just dancing in the dark
- The Only Boss Worth Listening to*